



Naloxone

Reversing overdose from pain medication

Drug abuse and overdose are serious health problems that can affect anyone. It is important to keep naloxone on hand for anyone who has opioids or prescription pain medication in the home.

Common opioids include: hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, codeine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, meperidine, methadone and buprenorphine. These drugs also may be labeled with brand names, so ask your doctor what type of pain medicine has been prescribed.

What is naloxone?

- Naloxone is a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose.
- Naloxone is safe and effective; health care professionals have used it for many years.
- Naloxone is sometimes referred to by brand names such as **Narcan** or **Evzio**

How does naloxone help?

- Opioids can slow or stop a person's breathing, which can lead to death. Naloxone counteracts this effect by helping the person wake up and continue breathing.

If someone's breathing has slowed down, it is important to call 911 and administer naloxone. Always stay with the person until help arrives.

Steps to follow after an overdose:

1. Stimulate the person by shaking them or speaking loudly.
2. Call 911.
3. Administer naloxone
4. If trained, begin CPR.
5. If necessary, repeat steps 3 and 4.
6. Place the victim in recovery position (on their side) to help keep their airway open and prevent choking from vomit or other fluids.

How is naloxone administered?

- **Nasal Spray (without assembly)**
The nasal spray does not need any assembly and can be sprayed up one nostril by pushing the plunger.
- **Nasal Spray (with assembly)**
 1. Remove yellow caps from the syringe.
 2. Screw on the white cone.
 3. Take cap off of the naloxone vial.
 4. Gently screw the naloxone vial into the barrel of syringe.
 5. Insert white cone into nostril; give a quick, strong push at the end of the vial to spray naloxone into the nose.
 6. Spray only half of the vial into each nostril.
- **Auto-injector**
The auto injector does not require assembly and can be injected into the outer thigh (even through clothing).

How long does it take for naloxone to work?

- Naloxone usually works within 2 to 5 minutes.
- In severe cases, if a person does not wake **up after 3 minutes**, a second dose of naloxone should be given and rescue breathing should continue.
- Naloxone usually wears off within 30 to 90 minutes, and overdose symptoms may return once this occurs. It is important to seek medical attention immediately if the antidote is required.

Call the poison helpline with questions about overdoses or giving naloxone.



If you have questions about **naloxone** or **overdoses**, please don't wait for symptoms to appear!

Call 1-800-222-1222.

Specially trained pharmacists and nurses are available 24/7 to assist you with your emergency and answer your questions!

Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information website:

Oklahomapoison.org

Takeasprescribed.org

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Symptoms of an overdose:

- Will not wake up when aroused.
- Slow, shallow, inconsistent or absent breathing.
- Pinpoint or small pupils.
- Blueish-purple color on lighter skinned individuals and grayish color on darker skinned individuals.

To avoid an accidental opioid overdose:

- Do not mix opioids with alcohol, benzodiazepines (for example, Xanax, Ativan, Klonopin, Valium), or medications that can cause drowsiness.
- Always take extra precaution when a dose is changed or when starting a new medication.
- Never give pain medications to anyone for whom they were not prescribed.
- Do not take more than the prescribed dosage.