

SAFETY ADVICE FOR PATIENTS & FAMILY MEMBERS

WHAT IS NALOXONE?

Naloxone is an antidote to opioid overdose. It is an opioid antagonist that is used to reverse the effects of opioids. Naloxone works by blocking opiate receptor sites. It is not effective in treating overdoses of benzodiazepines (such as Valium®, Xanax®, or Klonopin®), barbiturates (Seconal® or Fiorinal®), clonidine, Elavil®, GHB, or ketamine. It is also not effective in treating overdoses of stimulants such as cocaine and amphetamines (including methamphetamine and Ecstasy). However, if opioids are taken in combination with other sedatives or stimulants, naloxone may be helpful.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION. Naloxone may cause dizziness, drowsiness, or fainting. These effects may be worse if it is taken with alcohol or certain medicines. For more information, see <http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/postmarketdrugsafetyinformationforpatientsandproviders/ucm472923.htm>.

REPORT ANY SIDE EFFECTS

Get emergency medical help if you or someone has any signs of an allergic reaction after taking naloxone, such as hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor or 911 at once if you have a serious side effect such as:

- Chest pain, or fast or irregular heartbeats.
- Dry cough, wheezing, or feeling short of breath.
- Sweating, severe nausea, or vomiting.
- Severe headache, agitation, anxiety, confusion, or ringing in your ears.
- Seizures (convulsions).
- Feeling that you might pass out.
- Slow heart rate, weak pulse, fainting, or slowed breathing.

If you are being treated for opioid use disorder (either an illicit drug like heroin or a medication prescribed for pain), you may experience the following symptoms of opioid withdrawal after taking naloxone:

- Feeling nervous, restless, or irritable.
 - Body aches.
 - Dizziness or weakness.
 - Diarrhea, stomach pain, or mild nausea.
 - Fever, chills, or goosebumps.
- Sneezing or runny nose in the absence of a cold.

This is not a complete list of side effects, and others may occur. Talk to your doctor about side effects and how to deal with them.

STORE NALOXONE IN A SAFE PLACE

Naloxone is usually handled and stored by a health care provider.

If you are using naloxone at home, store it in a locked cabinet or other space that is out of the reach of children or pets.

SUMMARY: HOW TO AVOID OPIOID OVERDOSE

1. Take medicine only if it has been prescribed to you by your doctor.
2. Do not take more medicine or take it more often than instructed.
3. Call a doctor if your pain gets worse.
4. Never mix pain medicines with alcohol, sleeping pills, or any illicit substance.
5. Store your medicine in a safe place where children or pets cannot reach it.
6. Learn the signs of overdose and how to use naloxone to keep it from becoming fatal.
7. Teach your family and friends how to respond to an overdose.
8. Dispose of unused medication properly.

READ MORE AT

<http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/postmarketdrugsafetyinformationforpatientsandproviders/ucm472923.htm>.

HOW TO GIVE NALOXONE

There are four ways to give naloxone.
Follow instructions for the type that you have.

-- To see video instructions on how to administer the four kinds of naloxone, visit www.prescribetoprevent.org. --

Nasal spray (ready to use)

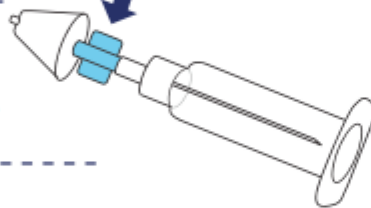
1. Peel back the package to remove the device.
2. Place the tip of the nozzle in a nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the nose.
3. Press the plunger firmly to release the dose into either nostril.
4. Provide a second dose in the other nostril if there is no response after 2-3 minutes.

Nasal spray (assembly required)

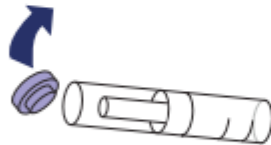
- 1 Remove the two colored caps from the delivery syringe.



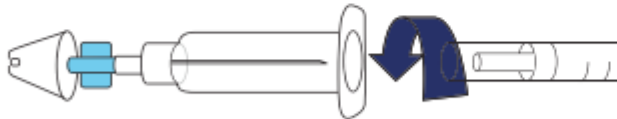
- 2 Screw the white atomizer cone onto the top of the delivery syringe.



- 3 Remove the cap off the capsule of naloxone.



- 4 Gently screw the capsule of naloxone into the barrel of syringe.



- 5 Insert white cone into nostril; give a short, strong push on the end of capsule to spray naloxone into nose: **One half (1 mL) of the capsule in each nostril.**



- 6 If there is no reaction in 2-3 minutes, give a second dose.

Auto-injector (EVZIO™)

1. Pull auto-injector from outer case.
2. Pull off red safety guard.
3. Place the black end of the auto-injector against the outer thigh—**through clothing if needed**—press firmly and hold in place for 5 seconds.
4. Repeat the injection if there is no response after 2-3 minutes.

Injectable naloxone

- 1 Put on gloves, if available. Remove cap from naloxone vial and uncover the needle.

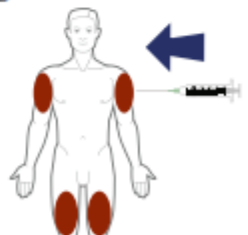


- 2 Insert needle through rubber plug with vial upside down. Pull back on plunger and draw up 1 mL of naloxone.



- 3 Insert the needle into the muscle of the bare upper arm or thigh.

Push on the plunger to inject the naloxone.



- 4 Repeat the injection if there is no response after 2-3 minutes.

RESPONDING TO AN OVERDOSE

Know how to keep yourself
and your loved ones safe.

-- Ask your pharmacist about how to safely dispose of medications and sharps. --

1 IDENTIFY OVERDOSE

Try to wake the overdose victim by yelling their name or rubbing your knuckles in the middle of their chest.

2 CALL 9-1-1

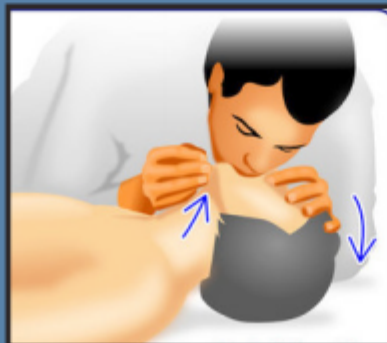
Indicate if the overdose victim has stopped or slowed breathing.

3 OPEN AIRWAY AND GIVE RESCUE BREATHS

If the overdose victim is not breathing, open the airway. Remove any object from the victim's mouth.

If breathing has stopped or slowed, start rescue breathing: tilt head back, lift chin, pinch nose with other hand, give one breath every five seconds. Continue this for 30 seconds.

If the overdose victim is still not breathing on own, give naloxone.



4 GIVE NALOXONE

See reverse side for how to give naloxone. After giving naloxone, continue rescue breaths. If there is still no response after 2-3 minutes, give naloxone again. **More than one dose is sometimes needed.**

5 RECOVERY POSITION

Once the overdose victim is breathing again, put the person on their side with the top leg and arm crossed over the body to prevent choking (see below).



6 STAY UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

Stay with the overdose victim until emergency responders arrive.