

Naloxone Saves Lives.

Is Naloxone for Me?



What is naloxone?

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose of opioids, including prescription opioid medications, heroin, and fentanyl. Often given as a nasal spray, naloxone is safe and easy to use.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone/index.html>

How does naloxone work?

Naloxone should reverse an overdose within three to five minutes of giving it. If the first dose does not revive the person who overdosed, sometimes a second dose is necessary, or more might be necessary. Once the person is revived, naloxone will stay in the body for about 30 minutes to up to 90 minutes.

Are there side effects to naloxone?

Naloxone reverses overdoses in people with opioids in their bodies. Naloxone does not affect someone who does not have opioids in their body, and any side effects would be due to a fast withdrawal from an opioid.

Source: <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>

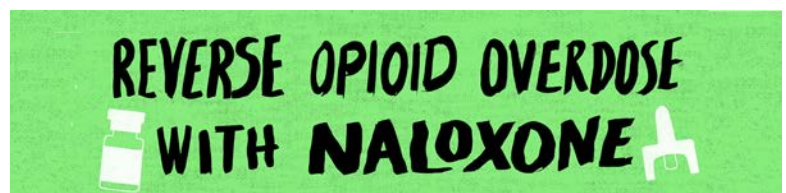
Why is my healthcare provider or pharmacist giving me a prescription for naloxone?

Prescribing naloxone with an opioid prescription is important for your safety. Using naloxone in case of overdose can save your life.

Naloxone may be offered to you if you have been prescribed opioids and you:

- Have a health condition like sleep apnea or COPD, or use supplemental oxygen that affects your lungs or breathing.
- Take higher doses of opioids daily, like 50 oral morphine milligram equivalents (MME) or more, or have a continuous opioid prescription for three months or more.
- Have a new opioid prescription that might be too strong, so a possible side effect might be slowing down or stopping your breathing, especially when sleeping.
- Are taking a medication that interacts with opioids, for example, benzodiazepines such as lorazepam or alprazolam, which increases the risk of an opioid overdose (lowers ability to breathe).
- Have a history of opioid and/or substance use disorder.
- Are age 65 years or older.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/naloxone>



80% of overdose deaths occurred inside a home.

(Based on a CDC Vital Signs report.)

In nearly 40% of overdose deaths, someone else was present. Having naloxone available allows bystanders to help a fatal overdose and save lives.

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Naloxone Saves Lives. *(continued)*

How do I know if my prescription is an opioid?

Common prescription opioids include oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), Percocet®, codeine, or morphine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure about your medication.

How is naloxone used?

Care partners and family members should know where you keep your naloxone, and be instructed on how to use it if you experience an overdose. Reviewing the instructions with the pharmacist before you and/or your care partner leave the pharmacy is a good idea.



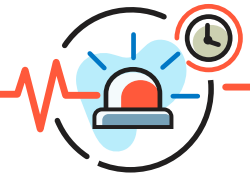
Should I stop taking my prescription opioid because I might overdose?

No. Your doctor prescribed you an opioid medication to help you manage pain. Call your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions, feel sick, start a new medication, or have side effects or allergic reactions. Only take medicines as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

Signs of an Opioid Overdose

During an overdose, breathing can be dangerously slowed, irregular or stopped, causing brain damage or death. It's important to recognize the signs and act fast. Signs include:

- Unable to speak or respond to your voice or touch
- Falling asleep or loss of consciousness
- Small, constricted "pinpoint pupils"
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Breathing is slow, irregular, or has stopped
- Faint heartbeat/pulse
- Limp arms and legs
- Pale, blue, or cold skin
- Blue or purple lips or fingernails



Here's what to do if you think someone is overdosing

It may be hard to tell if a person is experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, it's best to treat it like an overdose—you could save a life.

1. Check for response.
2. Call 911 immediately.
3. Administer naloxone, if available.
4. Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
5. Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
6. Stay with them until emergency workers arrive.

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/patients/preventing-an-opioid-overdose-tip-card-a.pdf>

For more information, please contact

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