

# Get to Know Naloxone.

Naloxone, which goes by many names (like Narcan®), is a medication used to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.



## How

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist. In the brain, it competes for the same receptor sites as an opioid. The opioids are then replaced by the naloxone, reversing/ blocking the overdose effects of the opioids. Naloxone is a temporary treatment – it does not last very long in the brain, so emergency services are still needed after naloxone has been given.

Naloxone can be given as a nasal spray (pictured above) or it can be injected into the muscle, under the skin, or in the veins.

## What

**Any kind of opioid can be disrupted by naloxone.**

Examples of opioids are heroin, morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl, hydrocodone, and codeine.

Naloxone is completely safe to use and will not injure the person giving or receiving it. The person receiving it may feel sick or start showing symptoms of opioid withdrawal.

## Opioid Overdose Signs

- Non-responsive
- Slow/stopped breathing
- Blue/gray lips & fingernails
- Skin is pale/ashen & clammy
- Limp body
- Vomiting
- Weak or no pulse
- Pinpoint pupils (center part of eye is very small)

After you give someone naloxone, stay with them until emergency help arrives. Remember, naloxone is temporary and may require multiple doses.

Anyone concerned about the risk of opioid overdose for themselves or others is encouraged to carry naloxone. If there are opioids in your household, prescription or not, you should also have naloxone. And because you can't administer naloxone to yourself, make sure others know you have it.

## Where

Naloxone is available over the counter at pharmacies across your community. It is also available at local harm reduction organizations. Email [CIT@healthdistrict.org](mailto:CIT@healthdistrict.org) for more information.

# 40%

In over 40% of overdose deaths, someone else was nearby. Having naloxone available can help save lives. It's just like carrying an EpiPen for someone with allergies – it provides a layer of protection.