

NALOXONE / NARCAN

Safety Topic V6-0919

First Aid, Emergency, Health

The information provided in this safety topic is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice or formal first aid training.

When given in time, naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids, including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications.

Naloxone is now available for non-prescription, over-the-counter use, making it significantly easier to obtain the life-saving drug for first aid kits in workplaces and on job sites.

When naloxone was first approved the brand name was Narcan. There are now other formulations and brand names, but many people continue to call all of these products by the familiar name Narcan. However, the proper generic name is naloxone.



- Signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose can include falling asleep, slow or shallow breathing, choking or gurgling sounds, skin that is pale, blue or cold, and small pinpoint pupils.
- Each container of naloxone only contains one dose of the medicine, so it is important not to test or practice before you are ready to administer.
- If someone at the job site is experiencing an overdose call 9-1-1 and administer one dose of naloxone.
- To administer the naloxone spray, insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril and press the plunger firmly. Then move the person onto their side and into the recovery position.
- Naloxone won't harm someone if they're overdosing on drugs other than opioids, so it's always best to use it if you think someone is overdosing.
- When naloxone is given soon after someone starts experiencing an overdose, that person will usually wake up within three minutes. If they do not wake up and start breathing after that time, administer another dose of naloxone.
- Store naloxone in the box it came in, protected from light, in an area that is below 77°F. Replace naloxone before the expiration date on the box.

Discussion

Why is it important to call 9-1-1 even after administering the Naloxone?

What should you do if the first dose doesn't seem to work?