



NALOXONE INFORMATION SHEET

What is Naloxone (Narcan)?

Naloxone (also known by the brand name Narcan) is a medication that works within minutes to reverse an opioid overdose. Opioids include drugs like heroin, morphine, oxycodone, methadone, fentanyl, hydrocodone (Norco or Vicodin), and codeine. Here are some quick facts about naloxone:

- It is safe and has few known serious side effects
- It has no potential for abuse
- It can be rapidly given as a nasal spray
- People surviving a near-fatal overdose can have complications, so immediate follow-up medical care from 9-1-1 or the emergency department is important.

Why give out Naloxone (Narcan)?

Emergency service providers may not arrive in time to rescue overdose victims. Trained community members such as friends, family and loved ones can respond to and reverse an opioid overdose using naloxone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization recommend making naloxone more available, and County and State Health Departments are working together to distribute naloxone in communities because it can save lives.

How do I recognize an opioid overdose?

Opioids make it difficult for someone to breathe. If someone is not conscious and not breathing well, they may be experiencing an overdose. The following are possible signs of an overdose:

- Unconscious
- Cannot be aroused by calling their name, touching them, or rubbing knuckles on their chest
- Not breathing well
- May appear blue (cyanotic)

How to respond to an opiate overdose

1. Call 9-1-1
2. Spray Naloxone (Narcan) in one nostril
3. Give rescue breaths if you can: 1 breath every 5 seconds
4. If the person is not breathing or responsive after 3 minutes, give another dose of Naloxone (Narcan) in the other nostril
5. If person becomes responsive, is breathing more, or wakes up, place them in the rescue position (on their side)

Important notes

Naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse overdoses from other drugs. It will have no effect if opioids are not the cause. It will not hurt, but it will not help. That is why it is important to call 9-1-1 at the earliest possible chance. Don't be afraid to call 9-1-1!

Where can I get Naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray?

Free Naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray is available from:

- Mono County Behavioral Health (760) 924-1740
- Mono County Paramedics (760) 924-3049
- Mono County Public Health (760) 924-1830
- Mono County Social Services (760) 924-1770

Naloxone (Narcan) may also be prescribed by a medical provider or be available at a local pharmacy without a prescription.