

# Important Information about Naloxone



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## What is naloxone?

Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, is a drug that reverses the effects of opioids. Naloxone can be given to any person with symptoms of an overdose, whether or not you know it is from an opioid. If the person has not used any opioids, naloxone will not work and will not cause any additional harm.

## What are the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose?

A person suffering an opioid overdose may present with some or all of the following symptoms:

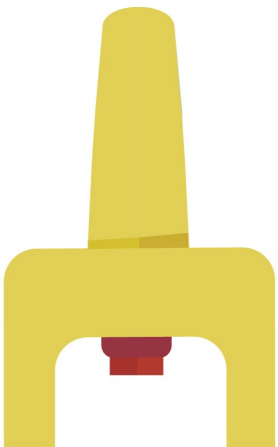
- Unusual sleepiness and you are not able to awaken the person with a loud voice or by rubbing firmly on the middle of their chest (sternum)
- Breathing problems including slow or shallow breathing
- The black circle in the center of the colored part of the eye (pupil) is very small, sometimes called "pinpoint pupils"
- Gurgling or choking noises
- Body is limp
- Heart rate slows or stops
- Blue lips and/or nails

## *What do I do if I suspect someone is having an opioid overdose?*

1. Immediately administer naloxone according to directions given to you by your pharmacist and/or located on the naloxone kit, and call 911.
2. If you are trained, do CPR.
3. If there is no change in 2-3 minutes after giving naloxone, administer another dose.
4. Stay with the person until first responders arrive.
5. Tell the first responders that you gave naloxone and at what time, and show them the dose.

## Do I have to call 911 even if the person becomes conscious and resumes breathing?

Yes, it is important to have trained medical professionals assess the condition of the person who overdosed. Often, a person will need more than one or even two doses of naloxone to treat the overdose. Additionally, sometimes people who overdose may develop other health problems, such as seizures, pneumonia or heart conditions, or could be suffering from something other than an opioid overdose.



## Does naloxone only work for overdoses caused by opioids?

Yes. Naloxone only reverses the effects of opioids such as heroin, methadone, morphine, opium, codeine and hydrocodone. However, many people who overdose have taken multiple drugs, including opioid pain relievers. Even if you are unsure of what drugs the person has taken, you can safely administer naloxone. If the person has not used any opioids, naloxone will not work and will not cause any additional harm.

## Will naloxone make you high or cause an overdose?

No. The only effect of naloxone is to reverse the effect of opioids. Naloxone is not an opioid and has no potential for abuse or dependency. It is not possible to overdose on naloxone.

## How can I get naloxone? Do I need a prescription?

You can find a location that dispenses naloxone (such as a pharmacy or your local health department) by searching on [optin.in.gov](https://optin.in.gov). No prescription is needed.

### Additional Treatment Information

[IN.gov/recovery](https://in.gov/recovery) provides a wealth of information about addiction treatment. The resources listed below are a small glimpse of what is available. Please visit the website for more comprehensive information.

- Call the Indiana Addiction Hotline: **1-800-662-HELP (4357)** or call **2-1-1**.
- To locate an addiction treatment facility near you, visit [FindTreatment.SAMSHA.gov](https://FindTreatment.SAMSHA.gov). Here you will also be able to find facilities that specifically offer medication-assisted treatment to treat opioid dependency.
- There are many community-based support resources in Indiana. These resources include counseling, detox, healthcare, housing, substance use disorder assistance and support groups.



For additional information on naloxone, contact  
**[OptIN@isdh.in.gov](mailto:OptIN@isdh.in.gov)**

