



# Rx Pain Medications

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## Treating Overdose with Naloxone

Naloxone is an antidote to opioid overdose<sup>1</sup> and is available as an injection or pre-filled auto-injection or intranasal device. If you have been given a naloxone device, you should<sup>2</sup>:

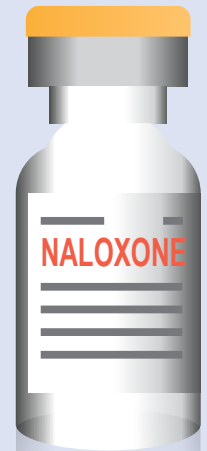
- ✓ Keep the device on you at all times in case of opioid overdose.
- ✓ Pay attention to the expiration date.
- ✓ Call your prescribing health care provider if you have a naloxone vial for injection and the liquid looks discolored or has particles.

Be sure family members/caregivers/others you are close to know the following. Learn more in the Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit.<sup>3</sup>

- ✓ Know how to tell if you are experiencing an overdose.
- ✓ Know where you keep the naloxone and how
- ✓ Call 9-1-1 in case of overdose and know what to do when waiting for emergency professionals.

Visit <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/opioid-overdose-reversal-naloxone-narcan-evzio> for more information on opioid overdose reversal.

Many states have expanded access to naloxone,<sup>4,5</sup> making it available to people who may witness an overdose—including law enforcement, family members, and caregivers.<sup>6</sup> Laws about naloxone use and administration vary from state to state.<sup>7,8</sup> Please check your local state laws.



Signs of overdose, which often results in death if not treated, include:

- Extreme sleepiness, inability to wake verbally or upon sternal rub.
- Breathing problems that can range from slow to shallow breathing in a patient who cannot be awakened.
- Fingernails or lips turning blue or purple.
- Extremely small “pinpoint” pupils.
- Slow heartbeat and/or low blood pressure.

<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2016). Opioid overdose. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/opioid-overdose>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. National Library of Medicine. (2016). Naloxone injection. *MedlinePlus*. Retrieved from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds/a612022.html>

<sup>3</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2016). *SAMHSA opioid overdose prevention toolkit*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA16-4742/SMA16-4742.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Campo-Flores, A., & Elinson, Z. (2014). States expand access to overdose-reversal drug. *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.wsj.com/articles/states-expand-access-to-overdose-reversal-drug-1409247874>

<sup>5</sup> Dennis, B. (2014). As opioid deaths surge, a push to get antidote into hands of abusers' friends and family. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/2014/06/20/d6ce4356-e82f-11e3-afc6-a1dd9407abcf\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/2014/06/20/d6ce4356-e82f-11e3-afc6-a1dd9407abcf_story.html)

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2017). Information about naloxone. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm472923.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Burris, S. (n.d.). The law in my state. *Project on Harm Reduction in the Health Care System*. Retrieved from <http://www.temple.edu/lawschool/phrhcs/Naloxone/Naloxonepolicy.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Chooper's Guide. (2012). State laws regulating naloxone and Good Sam 911. Retrieved from <http://choopersguide.com/content/naloxone-state-laws.html>