Naloxone and Opioid Overdose Prevention

Naloxone is an effective, non-addictive prescription medication that reverses opioid drug overdose.

**Risk Factors for Opioid Overdose**

Source: NC Harm Reduction Coalition, www.nchrc.org

- Mixing different types of drugs (opiates with alcohol and/or benzos)
- Quality and difference in purity levels based on batch
- Low tolerance due to not using opiates after incarceration, detox, or drug treatment
- Using alone behind locked door, unable to be found
- Compromised health due to an infection, lack of sleep
- Stressful or new environment

**Signs of an Opioid Overdose**

- Slow or shallow breathing
- Blue or gray lips and fingernails
- Pale and/or clammy skin
- Unable to wake up or respond

Visit [www.naloxonesaves.org](http://www.naloxonesaves.org) to confidentially tell us about your experience using naloxone.

**911 Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access Law**

Source: NC Harm Reduction Coalition, www.nchrc.org

Due to laws passed in North Carolina in 2013 and 2015, a person who seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug overdose cannot be:

- Prosecuted for possession of small amounts of drugs or for possession of drug paraphernalia if evidence for the charge was obtained as a result of the person seeking help; nor
- Considered in violation of a condition of parole, probation, or post-release, even if that person was arrested.

The overdose victim is protected from these charges as well. The caller must provide his/her name to 911 or law enforcement to qualify for the immunity.

Doctors and other providers who prescribe naloxone AND the people who administer naloxone in the case of an overdose will be immune from any civil or criminal charges as long as they act in good faith.

Pharmacists are immune from civil or criminal liability for dispensing naloxone to people at risk of an opioid overdose.


To find crisis services in your community, visit [http://crisissolutionsnc.org/](http://crisissolutionsnc.org/).
Intramuscular Naloxone Patient Information Sheet

Uses: This medication is used to treat an opioid overdose. Naloxone works by reversing the effects of opioids.

Tell family and friends where naloxone is stored and how to administer it in case of an overdose.

If you suspect someone is suffering from an opioid overdose:

Step 1. Call 911.

Step 2. Follow the 911 dispatcher’s instructions or perform rescue breathing if comfortable doing so.

Step 3. Give naloxone (see diagram below).

Step 4. Give a second dose of naloxone in 2 to 5 minutes if there is no response to the first dose.

For video instruction on how to use intramuscular naloxone, please visit prescribetoprevent.org.

Rescue Breathing

The key components of rescue breathing include the following:

Step 1. Make sure nothing is in the individual’s mouth.

Step 2. Tilt the head back, lift chin, and pinch nose shut.

Step 3. Give one slow breath every 5 seconds; chest should rise.

How to Use Intramuscular Naloxone

1. Remove cap from naloxone vial and uncover the needle
2. Insert needle through rubber plug with vial upside down
   Pull back on plunger and take up 1 mL
3. Inject 1 mL of naloxone at a 90 degree angle into a large muscle (upper arm/thigh, outer buttocks)

Possible side effects

Anxiety, sweating, nausea/vomiting, or shaking may occur as a person experiences withdrawal from the opiate. This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed, contact your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Please visit www.naloxonesaves.org to confidentially tell us about your experience.