

## Naloxone Reference Guide

Naloxone is a medication used to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. Timely administration of Naloxone can reverse and block the effects of opioids on the brain, quickly restoring breathing for someone who has overdosed. It has no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system.

Patients who may benefit from having Naloxone on hand include:

- Opioid users, including prescription or illicit drugs.
- Individuals who have received or are receiving emergency medical care involving opioid intoxication or overdose.
- Individuals undergoing treatment of opioid use disorder with buprenorphine or methadone.
- Users of opioids prescribed more than 50 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day.
- Concurrent users of alcohol.
- Concurrent users of prescriptions, benzodiazepines, antidepressants, skeletal muscle relaxants, or sedative medications.
- Individuals with concurrent history of smoking, COPD, or other respiratory illnesses or obstruction.
- Opioid users who may have difficulty accessing emergency medical services if needed.

### Important Considerations

Naloxone works to temporarily reverse the effects of the overdose. Naloxone can only reverse the effects for 30–90 minutes. It is possible for an individual to still experience an overdose once the Naloxone wears off. Some opioids may even require multiple doses of Naloxone. Even if you administer Naloxone, it's important to call 911 during an opioid overdose so that the individual can receive immediate medical attention.

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Family, friends, and anyone else close to a person at risk of opioid overdose should understand the following:

- During an overdose, the user cannot react. Someone will need to administer the Naloxone for them.
- Family and significant others should learn how to use Naloxone and where to store the drug.
- Naloxone should be stored at room temperature and away from light. Avoid extremes of heat or cold.

### **Prescribing Naloxone**

Per Act 651 of the 2021 Arkansas Legislative Session, prescribers are required to co-prescribe Naloxone when prescribing an opioid in certain situations. See the legislation [here](#).

### **Arkansas Naloxone Protocol**

The [Arkansas Naloxone Protocol](#) is intended to reduce the morbidity and mortality of opioid overdoses in the state. This allows Arkansas-licensed pharmacists to:

- Initiate therapy.
- Order, dispense, and/or administer Naloxone, along with any necessary supplies for administration.

Eligible persons include those who are at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, as well as family members, friends, or others who are in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. This protocol was approved by both the Arkansas State Medical Board and the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy.

As of January 2023, covered Naloxone products include:

- Naloxone HCl Nasal Spray 4mg/0.1ml
- Naloxone HCl Nasal Spray 8mg/0.1ml
- Naloxone HCl Solution Prefilled Syringe 2mg/2ml
- Naloxone HCl Solution Prefilled Syringe 5mg/0.5ml
- Naloxone HCl Injection 0.4mg/ml

To learn more about Naloxone and its uses, visit the [NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse website](#).