



Realities of Drug Addiction

Naloxone: Saving Lives From an Opioid Overdose

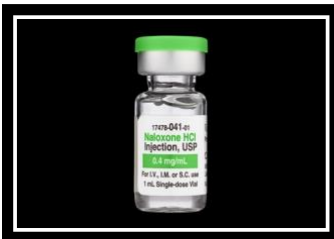
What is Naloxone: It is a medicine that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to reverse opioid overdose. The medicine is an opioid antagonist and blocks the effects of opioids by attaching to opioid receptors.

- ◆ **Administering Naloxone can save a life from an opioid overdose.**
- ◆ It should be administered when a person is showing signs of an opioid overdose.
- ◆ Always call 911 and then administer Naloxone.
- ◆ Naloxone can restore normal breathing in 2-3 minutes if the overdose is from an opioid.
- ◆ A second dose of Narcan may be needed, especially if the overdose is due to a strong opioid, such as fentanyl.
- ◆ **The effect of Naloxone is temporary, lasting 30 – 90 minutes, so it is critical to call 911 and have the person transported to the ER to get continued medical treatment.**

How is Naloxone Administered:



Pre-filled nasal spray contains 1 dose of Naloxone. If needed, additional doses should be given in alternate nostrils every 2-3 minutes. **Be sure 911 has been called and stay with the person until emergency personnel arrive.**



Injectable Naloxone is often given in the clinic and hospital setting. It can be given into the muscle, under the skin, or into a vein.

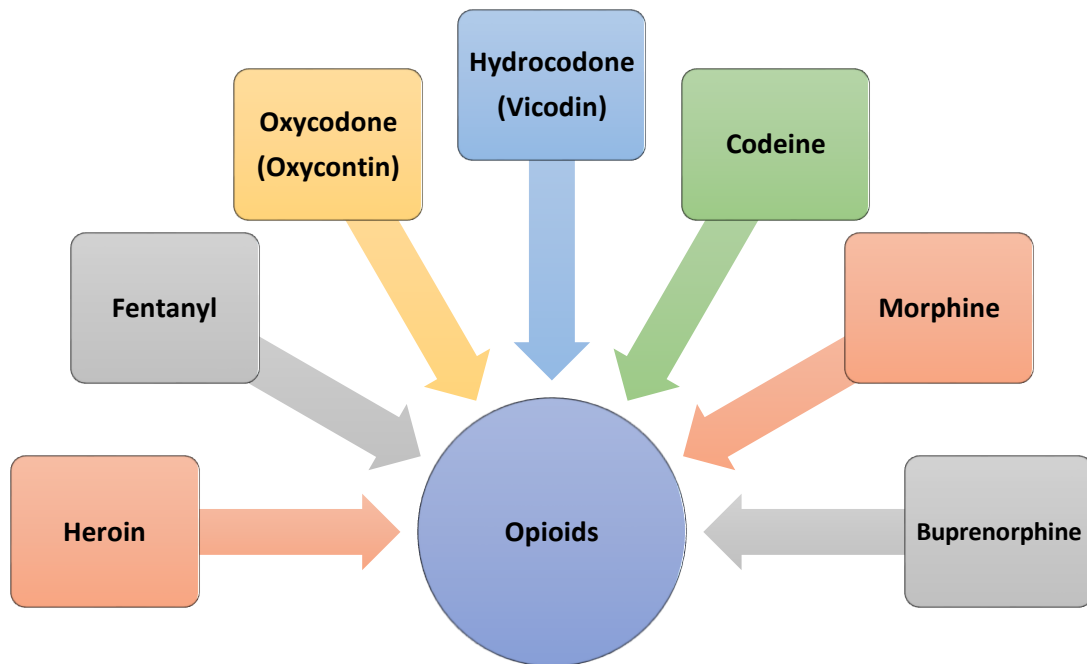
Important Points:

- ◆ Naloxone is effective only for an opioid overdose.
- ◆ Naloxone does not require a prescription and is available at most pharmacies.
- ◆ Emergency medical personnel and law enforcement officers carry Naloxone.
- ◆ Consider having more than 1 dose of Naloxone available since a person may need additional doses.
- ◆ Do **NOT** be afraid to call 911. Most states have the Good Samaritan Law that protects the caller and the person who overdosed from being arrested.

Healthcare providers who are prescribing an opioid should discuss the use of Naloxone if the person is taking Benzodiazepines or other medicines that increase the risk of an overdose. Caution should be taken if the person has a history of opioid misuse, abuse, or addiction.



Examples of Opioids:



Steps to Take if an Overdose Occurs:

- 1) Call 911 immediately.
- 2) Give Naloxone. If no response in 2-3 minutes, administer another dose.
- 3) If breathing is ok, place the person on their side (recovery position) to prevent choking.
- 4) If no breathing or heartbeat, start CPR.
- 5) If not breathing but has a heartbeat, do rescue breathing.
- 6) Stay with person until emergency assistance arrives.

Do NOT leave the person who has overdosed. Their condition can change and they may require more Naloxone or CPR.

Resources:

- ◆ **Insurance Drug Coverage:** Naloxone is covered by most insurance plans.
- ◆ **Free Naloxone:** If you do not have insurance coverage, check with major pharmacies and ask if Naloxone is free. Some of the major pharmacies are involved in state programs that provide Naloxone at no cost.
- ◆ **Harm Reduction Organizations:** Do an internet search for "harm reduction organizations" as they often provide Naloxone at no cost.
- ◆ **Never Use Alone, Inc:** This is a national overdose prevention lifeline. If using a drug alone, call the phone number below and someone will stay on the phone. They will call 911 if they suspect an overdose.
 - **Website:** neverusealone.com
 - **Phone:** 1-800-484-3731



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