Treating Overdose with Naloxone

Naloxone is an antidote to opioid overdose\(^1\) and is available as an injection or pre-filled auto-injection or intranasal device. If you have been given a naloxone device, you should\(^2\):

- 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.\(^3\)

- 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.


Many states have expanded access to naloxone,\(^4,5\) making it available to people who may witness an overdose—including law enforcement, family members, and caregivers.\(^6\) Laws about naloxone use and administration vary from state to state.\(^7,8\) 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.

---