



Narcan Nasal Spray

Narcan nasal spray is available with a prescription at the UHS Pharmacy. If you have concerns about your risk for opioid overdose and think you'd benefit from a prescription, please talk to a clinician. We want to keep you safe.

What is Narcan?

Naloxone (brand name Narcan®) is an easy-to-use, lifesaving prescription nasal spray medication that can reverse the effects of overdose from heroin or other opioids including morphine, methadone, codeine, and other drugs. It is to be used when someone is having breathing problems, severe sleepiness, or they are not able to respond. Narcan has no effect in people who are not taking opioids.

How do you use Narcan?

Narcan nasal spray is to be given right away and doesn't take the place of emergency medical care. Use Narcan immediately if you think signs or symptoms of an opioid emergency are present, even if you aren't sure. An opioid overdose can cause severe injury or death. Get emergency help right away after giving the first dose of Narcan, even if the person wakes up. Repeat doses may be necessary. Family members or other people who may have to use Narcan nasal spray should know where the spray is stored in case of an emergency.

How does Narcan work?

Narcan is administered in the nostril but doesn't require the person to be breathing. When someone takes an overdose of opioids, the opiates overwhelm certain areas of the brain and interrupt a key part of the body's impulse to breathe. Breathing slows dangerously or stops. *Continued on back...*

Please note: This information does not take the place of talking with your health care provider about your medical condition or treatment.

Quickly rescuing a person is crucial because prolonged, severe breathing problems can lead to brain injury or death. Naloxone, the active ingredient in Narcan, competes with opioids to bind with the same receptors in the brain. Usually, it reverses the effects of opioid overdose in 2 to 3 minutes. This gives the opioid-poisoned person time for emergency medical help to arrive.

Is Training Required to use Narcan?

There's no special training, measuring, or assembly required to use Narcan. It comes as a ready-to-use device that contains a single, pre-filled, pre-measured dose of naloxone.

How do I get Narcan?

Narcan nasal spray is available with a prescription at the UHS Pharmacy. If you have concerns about your risk for opioid overdose and think you would benefit from a Narcan prescription, please talk to a clinician in Primary or Urgent Care, Social Services, or Counseling and Psychological Services.