

Center & Section: CHP/ SMIP
Main Topic: Substance Misuse Education & Prevention
Sub Topic Main Page: Naloxone

Naloxone

What is Naloxone?

Naloxone is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent overdose by opioids such as heroin, morphine, and oxycodone. It blocks opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of the overdose. Naloxone is administered when a patient is showing signs of an opioid overdose. The medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin), or intravenous injection.

The Arkansas Department of Health in its efforts to educate and prevent the opioid epidemic began distributing NARCAN® Nasal Spray throughout Arkansas communities, first responders, families, and individuals.

What is the most important information I should know about NARCAN® Nasal Spray?

Use NARCAN® Nasal Spray right away if you or your caregiver think signs or symptoms of an opioid emergency are present, even if you are not sure because an opioid emergency can cause severe injury or death.

Family members, caregivers, or other people who may have to use NARCAN® Nasal Spray in an opioid emergency should know where NARCAN® Nasal Spray is stored and how to give NARCAN® Nasal Spray before an opioid emergency happens.

NARCAN® Nasal Spray is a short-term opioid reversal drug, so after administering you should immediately call 911.

Possible causes of an Opioid Overdose

- 1) When a patient misunderstands the directions for use, accidentally takes an extra dose, or deliberately misuses a prescription opioid or an illicit drug like heroin
- 2) If a person takes opioid medications prescribed for someone else
- 3) If a person mixes opioids with other medications, alcohol, or over-the-counter drugs

Side Effects of Naloxone

Patients who experience an allergic reaction to naloxone, such as hives or swelling in the face, lips, or throat, should seek medical help immediately. They should not drive or perform other potentially unsafe tasks.

The use of naloxone may cause symptoms of opioid withdrawal, including:

- Feeling nervous, restless, or irritable

- Body aches
- Dizziness or weakness
- Diarrhea, stomach pain, or nausea
- Fever, chills, or goosebumps
- Sneezing or runny nose in the absence of a cold

NARCAN® Nasal Spray Training and Education

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) provides Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) approved NARCAN® training and education to first responders. **If you would like more information about scheduling NARCAN® training in your area, please call 501-671-1449.**

Arkansas Standing Order for Naloxone:

The Arkansas Department of Health in collaboration with the Arkansas Board of Pharmacy and Arkansas State Medical Board authorized a standing order for naloxone which allows Arkansas pharmacists to dispense naloxone to anyone at increased risk of an opioid overdose or a family member/friend/other person in a position to assist an individual at increased risk of overdose. (Act 284 of 2017) [Naloxone Protocol](#)

Arkansas Good Samaritan Law (Act 1114 of 2015)

Separate sections of the statute for medical and nonmedical personnel.

The medical personnel section provides liability immunity if medical personnel acted in good faith and lent emergency care/assistance without compensation at the scene of the emergency or accident.

Non-medical personnel are afforded liability immunity if: the person believes the life, health, and safety of the injured person under imminent threat of danger would be aided by reasonable emergency procedures, the person provides emergency assistance that is reasonably calculated to remove or lessen the immediate threat, and the person acted as a reasonable and prudent person would under the circumstances.

Standard of Care: The person must act as a reasonable and prudent person would have acted under the circumstances. The statute also immunizes physicians and surgeons who render voluntary emergency assistance to participants in school athletic events. – Standard of care: Physician's actions must not rise to the level of gross negligence.

Resources:

[Good Samaritan Laws: Helping Arkansas Accident Victims \(taylorkinglaw.com\)](#)

[Opioid Overdose Treatment - NARCAN® \(naloxone HCl\) Nasal Spray](#)

[Naloxone – Arkansas Takeback \(artakeback.org\)](#)

[The Arkansas Opidemic – Arkansas Takeback \(artakeback.org\)](http://artakeback.org)

[Annual Surveillance Report Of Drug-related Risks And Outcomes \(cdc.gov\)](http://cdc.gov)

[Start Your Recovery \(https://startyourrecovery.org/\)](https://startyourrecovery.org/)

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