

Preventing Overdose

Naloxone

Ask your doctor about naloxone – a safe medication that can quickly stop an opioid overdose. It can be injected into the muscle or sprayed into the nose to rapidly block the effects of the opioid on the body.

Naloxone is a medicine that can treat an opioid overdose when given right away. It works by rapidly binding to opioid receptors and blocking the effects of heroin and other opioid drugs. Sometimes more than one dose may be needed to help a person start breathing again, which is why it's important to get the person to an emergency department or a doctor to receive additional support if needed.

Naloxone is available as an injectable (needle) solution, a handheld auto-injector (EVZIO®), and a nasal spray (NARCAN® Nasal Spray). You don't have to be a health care professional to give naloxone. Friends, family, and others in the community who receive the right training can use it to save someone who is overdosing.

The rising number of opioid overdose deaths has led to an increase in public health efforts to make naloxone available to at-risk persons and their families, as well as first responders and others in the community. California allows pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription from a person's personal doctor.

For additional information and training on how to use naloxone in response to an opioid overdose, click [here](#).

SOURCES

National Institute on Drug Abuse: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/heroin>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/patients/Preventing-an-Opioid-Overdose-Tip-Card-a.pdf>

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If you or someone you know has a substance use disorder, also known as addiction, we can help.

Call anytime, toll-free.

