


NALOXONE SAVES LIVES



EVERY DAY AN AVERAGE OF
15 FLORIDIANS DIE
OF A DRUG OVERDOSE

**In many cases,
these lives could
have been saved
by naloxone.**

Also known by its brand
name Narcan®.

**Naloxone can quickly restore normal breathing and save the life
of a person who is overdosing on opioids.**

Naloxone is a safe medication that is widely used by emergency medical personnel and other first responders to prevent opioid overdose deaths. Unfortunately, by the time responders reach a person having an overdose, it is often too late.

Friends, family, and other bystanders can save lives with naloxone.

Naloxone distribution programs give naloxone kits to opioid users, their friends and families, and others who may find themselves in a position to save the life of someone at risk of an opioid overdose.

How does naloxone work?

Naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist meaning it binds to opioid receptors and reverses or blocks the effects of other opioids. Giving naloxone immediately reverses the effects of opioid drugs and restores normal respiration. It can be administered by injection or through a nasal spray.

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Is naloxone safe?

Yes. There is no evidence of significant adverse reactions to naloxone.¹ Administering naloxone in cases of opioid overdose can cause withdrawal symptoms when the person is dependent on opioids; this is uncomfortable without being life threatening.^{2,3} The risk that someone overdosing on opioids will have a serious adverse reaction to naloxone is far less than their risk of dying from overdose.^{4,5} Naloxone only works if a person has opioids in their system; the medication has no effect if opioids are absent.

After naloxone is given

Bystanders:

Call 911 immediately

It is important to call emergency responders right away. Naloxone is only active in the body for 30 to 90 minutes and its effects could wear off before those of the opioids, causing the user to stop breathing again.

Clinicians:

Screen for opioid use disorder

An overdose reversal is a critical opportunity to identify people with opioid use disorder and engage them in treatment.



- ✓ Patients should be assessed for opioid use disorder using a validated tool, such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) Recognizing Opioid Abuse table.
- ✓ Those with a positive assessment should be engaged in treatment, including FDA-approved medications, when appropriate.
- ✓ Treatment plans, including opioid pain reliever dose, should be reassessed for patients who are prescribed opioids for pain.

SOURCES:

1. Wermeling DP. Ther Adv Drug Saf (2015).
2. Buajordet I, et al. Eur J Emerg Med (2004).

3. Belz D, et al. (2006) Prehosp Emerg Care.
4. Osterwalder JJ. J Toxicol Clin Toxicol (1996).

5. Darke S, et al. Addiction (2003)

TO FIND NALOXONE IN YOUR AREA

Contact your health department or go to:
<https://www.isavefl.com/find-naloxone.shtml>

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you or someone you care about has an opioid use disorder:

- Ask your health care provider or pharmacist about naloxone
- View NIDA's naloxone web page:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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