

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS: Prescribing Naloxone

Naloxone is the antidote for an opioid overdose. It has been used for decades to reverse respiratory depression associated with toxic exposure to opioids. Naloxone is not a controlled substance and can be prescribed by anyone with a medical license. Take-home naloxone can be prescribed to patients at risk of an opioid overdose. Some reasons for prescribing naloxone are:

1. Receiving emergency medical care involving opioid intoxication or overdose
2. Suspected history of substance abuse or nonmedical opioid use
3. Starting methadone or buprenorphine for addiction
4. Higher-dose (>50 mg morphine equivalent/day) opioid prescription
5. Receiving any opioid prescription for pain plus:
  - a. Rotated from one opioid to another because of possible incomplete cross-tolerance
  - b. Smoking, COPD, emphysema, asthma, sleep apnea, respiratory infection, other respiratory illness
  - c. Renal dysfunction, hepatic disease, cardiac illness, HIV/AIDS
  - d. Known or suspected concurrent alcohol use
  - e. Concurrent benzodiazepine or other sedative prescription
  - f. Concurrent antidepressant prescription
6. Patients who may have difficulty accessing emergency medical services (distance, remoteness)
7. Voluntary request from patient or caregiver

Two naloxone formulations are available. Intra-muscular injection is cheaper but may be less attractive because it involves using a needle syringe. (IM syringes aren't widely used to inject controlled substances.) Intra-nasal (IN) spray is of comparable effectiveness, but may be more difficult to obtain at a pharmacy. Check with pharmacist to see whether IM or IN is more feasible.

## Billing for Clinical Encounter to Prescribe Naloxone

Most private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid cover naloxone, but it varies by state.

Drug Abuse Screening Test—DAST-10			
These Questions Refer to the Past 12 Months			
1	Have you used drugs other than those required for medical reasons?	Yes	No
2	Do you abuse more than one drug at a time?	Yes	No
3	Are you unable to stop using drugs when you want to?	Yes	No
4	Have you ever had blackouts or flashbacks as a result of drug use?	Yes	No
5	Do you ever feel bad or guilty about your drug use?	Yes	No
6	Does your spouse (or parents) ever complain about your involvement with drugs?	Yes	No
7	Have you neglected your family because of your use of drugs?	Yes	No
8	Have you engaged in illegal activities in order to obtain drugs?	Yes	No
9	Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when you stopped taking drugs?	Yes	No
10	Have you had medical problems as a result of your drug use (eg, memory loss, hepatitis, convulsions, bleeding)?	Yes	No

### Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment

SBIRT can be used to bill time for counseling a patient. Complete the DAST-10 and counsel patient on how to recognize overdose and how to administer naloxone, using the following sheets. Refer to drug treatment program if appropriate.

#### Billing codes

Commercial insurance: CPT 99408 (15 to 30 mins.)

Medicare: G0396 (15 to 30 mins.)

Medicaid: H0050 (per 15 mins.)

Guidelines for Interpretation of DAST-10		
Interpretation (Each "Yes" response = 1)		
Score	Degree of Problems Related to Drug Abuse	Suggested Action
0	No problems reported	Encouragement and education
1-2	Low level	Risky behavior – feedback and advice
3-5	Moderate level	Harmful behavior – feedback and counseling; possible referral for specialized assessment
6-8	Substantial level	Intensive assessment and referral

### Pharmacist: Dispensing Naloxone

Many outpatient pharmacies do not stock naloxone but it can be easily ordered from major distributors. The nasal atomizer can be ordered from the manufacturer LMA (1-800-788-7999), but isn't usually covered by insurance (\$3 each). It may take 24 hours to set up an account with LMA, and the minimum order size is 25.

# Naloxone for Overdose Prevention

patient name

date of birth

patient address

patient city, state, ZIP code



prescriber name

prescriber address

prescriber city, state, ZIP code

prescriber phone number

Naloxone HCl 0.4 mg/mL (Narcan)  
1 x 10 mL as one fliptop vial (NDC 0409-1219-01) OR  
2 x 1mL single dose vials (NDC 0409-1215-01)

Refills: \_\_\_\_\_

Intramuscular (IM) syringe, 23 G, 3cc, 1 inch

Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Refills: \_\_\_\_\_

Sig: For suspected opioid overdose,  
inject 1mL IM in shoulder or thigh.  
Repeat after 3 minutes if no or minimal response.

prescriber signature

date

Detach for patient



## Are they breathing?

Signs of an overdose:

- Slow or shallow breathing
- Gaspings for air when sleeping or weird snoring
- Pale or bluish skin
- Slow heartbeat, low blood pressure
- Won't wake up or respond (rub knuckles on sternum)



## Call 911 for help

All you have to say:

"Someone is unresponsive and not breathing."

Give clear address and location.



## Airway

Make sure nothing is inside the person's mouth.



## Rescue breathing

Oxygen saves lives. Breathe for them.

One hand on chin, tilt head back, pinch nose closed.

Make a seal over mouth & breathe in

1 breath every 5 seconds

Chest should rise, not stomach



## Evaluate

Are they any better? Can you get naloxone  
and prepare it quickly enough that they won't  
go for too long without your breathing assistance?



## Prepare naloxone

- Remove cap from naloxone and uncover needle
- Insert needle through rubber plug, with bottle upside down
- Pull back on plunger and take up 1 cc into the syringe
- Don't worry about air bubbles (they aren't dangerous in muscle injections)



## Muscular injection

inject 1cc of naloxone into a big muscle (shoulder or thigh)



## Evaluate + support

- Continue rescue breathing
- Give another shot of naloxone in 3 minutes if no or minimal breathing or responsiveness
- Naloxone wears off in 30-90 minutes
- Comfort them; withdrawal can be unpleasant
- Get them medical care and help them not use more opiate right away
- Encourage survivors to seek treatment if they feel they have a problem

## How to Avoid Overdose

- Only take medicine prescribed to you
- Don't take more than instructed
  - Call a doctor if your pain gets worse
- Never mix pain meds with alcohol
- Avoid sleeping pills when taking pain meds
- Dispose of unused medications
- Store your medicine in a secure place
- Learn how to use naloxone
- Teach your family + friends how to respond to an overdose

For More Info  
[PrescribeToPrevent.com](http://PrescribeToPrevent.com)

Poison Center  
1-800-222-1222  
(free & anonymous)

# Naloxone for Overdose Prevention

patient name

date of birth

patient address

patient city, state, ZIP code



prescriber name

prescriber address

prescriber city, state, ZIP code

prescriber phone number

Naloxone HCl 1 mg/mL  
2 x 2 mL as pre-filled Luer-Lock needled syringe  
(NDC 0548-3369-00)

Refills: \_\_\_\_\_

2 x Intranasal Mucosal Atomizing Device (MAD 300)

Refills: \_\_\_\_\_

For suspected opioid overdose, spray 1mL in each nostril.  
Repeat after 3 minutes if no or minimal response.

Pharmacist: Call 1-800-788-7999 to order MAD 300.

prescriber signature

date

Detach for patient

## How to Avoid Overdose

- Only take medicine prescribed to you
- Don't take more than instructed

- Call a doctor if your pain gets worse
- Never mix pain meds with alcohol
- Avoid sleeping pills when taking pain meds

- Dispose of unused medications
- Store your medicine in a secure place
- Learn how to use naloxone

- Teach your family + friends how to respond to an overdose



## Are they breathing? → Call 911 for help

Signs of an overdose:

- Slow or shallow breathing
- Gasping for air when sleeping or weird snoring
- Pale or bluish skin
- Slow heartbeat, low blood pressure
- Won't wake up or respond (rub knuckles on sternum)

All you have to say:  
"Someone is unresponsive and not breathing."  
Give clear address and location.



## Airway → Rescue breathing

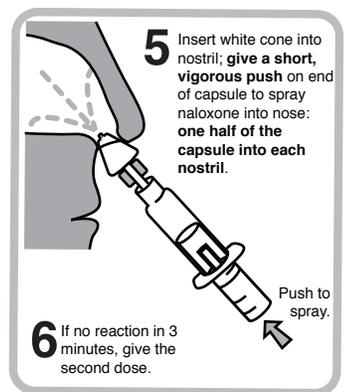
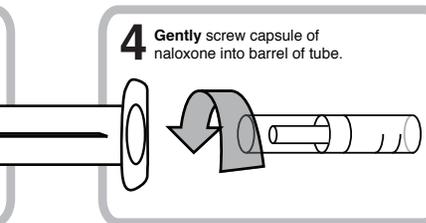
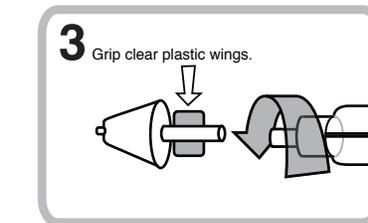
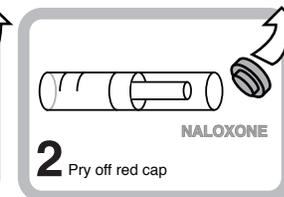
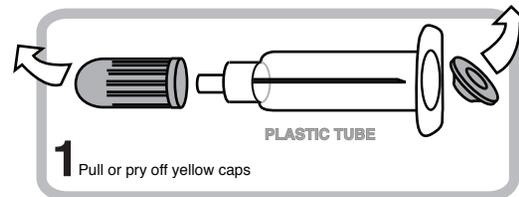
Make sure nothing is inside the person's mouth.

Oxygen saves lives. Breathe for them.  
One hand on chin, tilt head back, pinch nose closed.  
Make a seal over mouth & breathe in  
1 breath every 5 seconds  
Chest should rise, not stomach



## Prepare Naloxone

Are they any better? Can you get naloxone and prepare it quickly enough that they won't go for too long without your breathing assistance?



## Evaluate + support

- Continue rescue breathing
- Give another 2 sprays of naloxone in 3 minutes if no or minimal breathing or responsiveness
- Naloxone wears off in 30-90 minutes
- Comfort them; withdrawal can be unpleasant
- Get them medical care and help them not use more opiate right away
- Encourage survivors to seek treatment if they feel they have a problem



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