How to Respond to an Opioid Overdose

with naloxone nasal spray

Naloxone: A medication used to treat an opioid overdose. It will not treat an overdose from sedating medications such as benzodiazepines (which include Valium, Klonopin, Ativan and Xanax). An opioid overdose can lead to death if not treated.

Common opioids include:
- Heroin
- Fentanyl
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- Norco
- Oxycodone (Oxycontin®)
- Morphine
- Dilaudid
- Buprenorphine

Who is at risk for an opioid overdose:
- Anyone taking prescription or street opioids
- Those who inject opioids, take higher doses, mix opioids with other medications that may cause sedation, or have a pre-existing medical condition may be at a higher risk

Signs of an overdose include:
- Hard to wake up, sleepy or confused
- Breathing slowed or stopped
- Pupils the size of pinpoints
- Lips or fingernails turning blue

Call 911 if you suspect an overdose, then administer naloxone nasal spray

See reverse side for instructions on administering naloxone.
NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray Instructions

Note: There is only one dose per spray device, so do not prime or test it first.

Peel
- Take the spray device out of the box
- Peel back the tab to open

Place
- Hold the spray device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and place your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle
- Tilt the person’s head back and provide support under the neck with your hand
- Gently, place the tip of the nozzle into either nostril until your fingers on either side of the nozzle are against the bottom of their nose

Press
- Press the plunger firmly to give the entire dose of spray then move the person to their left side
- Give a second dose of NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray if they do not wake up in 2 to 3 minutes

Stay until help arrives
Remain with the person until emergency medical help arrives.

To watch a video on how to administer NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray, scan the QR code or search naloxone on Spectrum Health’s YouTube site.

Please read the full patient information and use instructions included in the Narcan® Nasal Spray box.