

## NALOXONE

- **What is naloxone?**

Naloxone (Narcan<sup>®</sup>, Evzio<sup>®</sup>) is an FDA-approved, over-the-counter drug that can stop an opioid overdose. Anyone can easily use naloxone to save the life of someone overdosing on opioids, including heroin or prescription medicines like OxyContin<sup>®</sup> or Percocet<sup>®</sup>. Naloxone can be given intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intravenously, or intranasally. All administration routes are effective. Please consult your doctor or pharmacist and choose the option that is best for you/your loved one(s).

- **Does naloxone only work to reverse opioid overdoses?**

Yes, naloxone only works against opioid overdoses and has no effect in treating overdoses of benzodiazepines (such as Valium<sup>®</sup>, Xanax<sup>®</sup>, or Klonopin<sup>®</sup>), barbiturates (Seconal<sup>®</sup> or Fiorinal<sup>®</sup>), or other types of drugs such as clonidine, Elavil<sup>®</sup>, GHB, or ketamine.

- **How does naloxone work?**

Naloxone reverses an opioid overdose by blocking opioid receptor sites in the brain. After naloxone is given, a person should begin to recover from the overdose and start to breathe more normally. Naloxone takes 3-5 minutes to work, but if the person's condition stays the same or worsens in this timeframe, multiple doses of naloxone may be necessary.

- **Who should carry naloxone?**

Any individual who is trained to recognize and respond to a possible opioid overdose may carry naloxone. If you or a loved one abuses opioid drugs, it is recommended that you keep naloxone on hand. This will allow you or a loved one to dispense treatment immediately if someone starts showing signs of an opioid overdose.

- **How do I administer naloxone?**

Instructional Sheets:

- [How to administer naloxone](#)

Instructional Videos:

- [How to administer intramuscular naloxone](#)
- [How to administer intranasal naloxone](#)
- [How to use the naloxone auto-injector](#)

- **What are the side effects of naloxone?**

Because naloxone reverses an opioid overdose, the person may be put into immediate withdrawal after receiving the medication. Symptoms of withdrawal include body aches, dizziness or weakness, diarrhea, stomach pain, nausea, fever, chills, cold-like symptoms, and some irritability. These symptoms, while uncomfortable, are not life threatening.

Allergic reactions to naloxone are uncommon. Potential allergic reactions include hives and swelling in the face, lips, and/or throat.

- **Where can I get naloxone? Do I need a prescription?**

Naloxone can be prescribed by your health care provider or can be obtained without a prescription at a pharmacy that is using a standing order for the medication (see below).

- **Does naloxone expire?**

Naloxone does expire and may become less effective over time, especially when exposed to too much cold, heat, or direct sunlight. For best results, store naloxone in a safe, dark, or dry place at room temperature such as a purse or medicine cabinet.

- **How much does naloxone cost?**

Naloxone is generally affordable, but the cost may vary. Most insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid, will cover the cost of naloxone.

## OPIOIDS

- **What are opioids?**

Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, as well as prescription pain relievers such as fentanyl, hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, codeine, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, meperidine, methadone, and buprenorphine. Methadone and buprenorphine may also be used in the treatment of opioid use disorder. These drugs are chemically related and interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain. Regular use—even as prescribed by a doctor—can lead to dependence and, when misused, opioid pain relievers can lead to overdose incidents and deaths.

Benzodiazepines (such as Valium<sup>®</sup>, Xanax<sup>®</sup>, or Klonopin<sup>®</sup>), barbiturates (Seconal<sup>®</sup> or Fiorinal<sup>®</sup>), and other drugs, such as clonidine, Elavil<sup>®</sup>, GHB, and ketamine *are not opioids*.

- **What is an overdose?**

Due to their effect on the part of the brain which regulates breathing, opioids in high doses can cause breathing to slow down and even stop completely, resulting in death. The most common signs of an overdose include: extreme sleepiness, no response if you say a person's name or shake them, limp body, vomiting, blue lips and/ or fingernails, and breathing less than 8 breaths-per-minute or not at all.

- **What do I do in the event of an overdose?**

CALL 911 and GIVE NALOXONE. If you know how, perform rescue breathing, chest compressions, or both. Put the person experiencing the overdose on their side, with their face turned to the side (the "recovery position") which will help to keep their airway clear and prevent them from choking if they begin to throw-up. Once they start to breath

normally, stay by their side, keeping them warm and making sure they continue breathing. If there is no effect three minutes after giving a dose of naloxone, or if a person recovers but becomes unresponsive again, give them a second dose of naloxone.

Do not try to slap or forcefully wake the person up, do not put them into a cold bath or shower, and do not try to make them vomit as choking can be fatal.

- **Who is at risk for an overdose?**

Anyone who uses heroin, fentanyl / fentanyl-like drugs or prescription opioids for medical or non-medical reasons is at risk for opioid overdose. Others at risk include persons who: 1) have a prior history of opioid overdose, and 2) who use opioids after a period of abstinence and who have lost their prior tolerance level to opioids, such as those recently released from custody or who are in early recovery.

- **Where can I get information about treatment for opioid addiction?**

Please go to the Illinois Department of Human Services Division on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse for more information about treatment:  
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29725>

## **STATEWIDE NALOXONE STANDING ORDER**

- **What is the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order?**

The statewide Illinois Naloxone Standing Order authorizes trained, licensed pharmacists and overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) programs to dispense naloxone to anyone who requests it for the use of reversing a potential opioid overdose, even if they don't have an individual prescription for the medication. The order was issued by the Chief Medical Officer of the Illinois Department of Public Health on September 7, 2017 and will be renewed annually.

- **Who may obtain and use the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order?**

Eligible entities include pharmacies, pharmacists, or opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) programs. OEND programs may include law enforcement agencies, drug treatment programs, local health departments, hospitals or urgent care facilities, or other for-profit or not-for-profit community-based organizations that do not have access to a standing order through their organization.

- **Who should not use the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order?**

Individuals should not use the standing order to fill naloxone prescriptions at a pharmacy. Instead, individuals should either obtain a prescription for naloxone from their prescriber, or go to a pharmacy that is using a naloxone standing order.

Entities who function under an EMS system do not need this standing order but should make arrangements to obtain naloxone education and administration protocols under the authority of their EMS Medical Director.

- **What is required of eligible entities to obtain the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order?**  
Participating pharmacies and pharmacists must be licensed under the Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act (225 ILCS 85).

OEND programs must be registered as a Drug Overdose Prevention Program with the Illinois Department of Humans Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/>.

- **What are the educational requirements that eligible entities must fulfill to utilize the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order?**

For participating pharmacies and pharmacists:

- Complete any IDHS approved training modules (i.e. previously approved modules include Walgreens, CVS, Albertsons, and [IPhA](#))

**OR**

- Understand the [Naloxone Standardized Procedures](#), as well as completion of the following training videos:
  - [Naloxone Overview and Patient Counseling](#)
  - [Instructional Videos for Administration of Naloxone](#)

For Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Programs, training materials must be in compliance with IDHS' [Drug Overdose Prevention Program guidelines](#).

- **How do eligible entities obtain the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order?**  
Eligible entities, as described above, can register [here](#) to access the standing order.
- **How do entities that dispense naloxone under the Illinois Naloxone Standing order report naloxone administrations?**  
Individuals who give naloxone to someone in an attempt to reverse an overdose are not required by law to report this action. However, pharmacies that dispense naloxone under the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order are asked to report information on the number of dispensed doses of naloxone to the [Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program](#).

Opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution programs should report requested information to the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Use [Drug Overdose Prevention Program](#) (DOPP) through which they are registered.

- **Will the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order expire?**  
The standing order will be renewed annually or revised as necessary at earlier intervals based on developments in drug formulation or policy changes.
- **What is the Illinois Naloxone Map?**  
At the time of online registration to access the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order, entities may opt to be identified on a map that will be available in the near future on the IDPH Naloxone webpage.
- **What if my organization no longer provides naloxone?**  
Entities must contact IDPH if they are no longer able to provide naloxone. Please send an email to [DPH.Opioids@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.Opioids@illinois.gov) if your organization previously registered to use the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order but is no longer able to provide naloxone.
- **Under what authority is the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order issued?**  
This Standing Order is made pursuant to the [Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse and Dependency Act \(20 ILCS 301\)](#) and [Executive Order 2017-05](#).
- **What is the Illinois Naloxone Standardized Procedure?**  
The Illinois Naloxone Standardized Procedure is document developed and approved by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation that provides guidance on the response to suspected opioid overdose and the administration of naloxone. This document updates the previous “Naloxone Standardized Procedures” issued in 2015. It is attached to the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order. Understanding of the Illinois Naloxone Standardized Procedures is required to utilize the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order.

For more FAQs and information about naloxone and opioid addiction, please visit [the Prevent & Protect FAQ page](#).

Contact [DPH.Opioids@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.Opioids@illinois.gov) with questions about the Illinois Naloxone Standing Order