

## Caregiver Bulletin



# What is Naloxone?

## Did you know?

*Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids including heroin, fentanyl and prescription opioid medications. Naloxone is easy to give and easy to carry. It comes in two forms, a prefilled nasal spray or an injectable. Narcan is another name for Naloxone. Both the nasal spray and injectable*

*naloxone/ Narcan are safe and equally effective in saving a life.*



### Naloxone Nasal Spray

Prefilled devices that spray medication into the nose.

## How do I know if someone is having an overdose?

Recognizing an opioid overdose can be difficult. If you think someone has symptoms but you aren't sure it's an overdose, treat it like an overdose and call 911. An opioid overdose is a medical emergency. Fast action can save a life.

## Signs of opioid overdose may include:

- Small or "pinpoint" pupils.
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness.
- Slow, shallow breathing.
- Choking or gurgling sounds.
- Limp body.
- Pale, blue, gray or ashen skin color.
- Cold skin.

## Learn More

Use of Naloxone for a Drug Overdose - [Instructions](#)

Washington State Department of Health - [Overdose Education](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - [Preventing Opioid Overdose](#) | [Overdose Prevention](#) | [CDC](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - [Lifesaving Naloxone](#) | [Stop Overdose](#) | [CDC](#)

[RCW 69.41.095](#), Opioid overdose reversal medication - Standing order **permitted**

[RCW 4.24.300](#), Washington's Good Samaritan law



# Giving Naloxone

## What should I do if I suspect an overdose?

1. Call 911.
2. Give Naloxone.
3. Talk to the person. Explain what you are doing. Do your best to keep them awake.
4. Lay the person on their left side to prevent choking.
5. Stay with them until emergency assistance arrives.
6. Naloxone can take two to three minutes to start working. You may need to give more than one dose.

## Giving Naloxone:

The Washington State Department of Health has a standing order for Naloxone to be administered. The standing order allows you to get, have, and give Naloxone to someone with a suspected opioid overdose.

- Giving Naloxone is voluntary.
- Anyone may give Naloxone. It does not need nurse delegation.
- Naloxone may be stored in a home, facility, or office.
- If a provider or facility chooses to use Naloxone, they must have policies and procedures for staff to follow.
- Follow the same storage and administration standards as all other prescription medications.

A person you care for might be prescribed an opioid medication. Common opioids include:

- Heroin
- Morphine
- Dilaudid
- Codeine
- Methadone
- OxyContin
- Vicodin

To learn more about Naloxone administration, [watch this video](#).



- 1 Peel** back the package to remove the device.



- 2 Place** and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril.



- 3 Press** the plunger firmly to release the dose into the nose.



**Roll to a recovery position.**

