

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN **Chronic Pain Clinic**

Responding to Opioid Overdose

Naloxone

What is naloxone?

Naloxone is an injectable medication that **temporarily** reverses slowed breathing from too much opioid.

MAKE A PLAN

If you take opioids for chronic pain or are close to someone who uses opioids, it is a good idea to have a naloxone kit on hand.

Remember: Someone who overdoses will not be able to use naloxone on their own. Other adults/teenagers in the home should know where to find and how to give naloxone.

How does naloxone work?

With too much opioid in the body, too many brain receptors have opioid attached. This can cause breathing to slow or stop.

Naloxone binds to receptors very strongly so it can knock off opioids from the receptor for a short time. Ideally, normal breathing starts again.

Naloxone Opioid sitting on receptor Opioid knocked free

When naloxone wears off after 30 – 90 minutes, leftover opioid can re-attach to receptors and overdose can come back.

Receptors in the brain

Naloxone starts to restore breathing in 2 – 5/minutes

Responding to an overdose – how to use naloxone



- shout their name
- tell them to breathe
- rub the sternum
- if not responding, call 911

Airway

- clear out mouth
- tilt head back
- Ventilate • pinch nose
- give 2 big breaths
 - ensure chest rises
- give 1 breath every 5 seconds

Evaluate

- if person starts breathing, wait
- with them for EMS
- give naloxone
- follow instructions in the kit to prepare the dose of naloxone
- if still not breathing, pick the muscle site (thighs, butt, upper arms)
 - inject the naloxone (can go through clothing if needed)
- **Muscle Injection Evaluate** • if person starts breathing, wait with them for EMS
 - if still not breathing, give 1 breath every 5 seconds
 - give naloxone again in 4 - 5 minutes

SOURCE: <u>HTTPS://TOWARDTHEHEART.COM/NALOXONE-TRAINING</u>

Resource originally created by Taylor Raiche, BSP, March 2020. Reviewed October 2022.