

JUST THE FACTS

NALOXONE (NARCAN)

Approved by the FDA, Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses opioid overdose. It does this by binding to opioid receptors and reverses the effects of opioids, such as fentanyl, heroin, oxycodone and morphine.



IDENTIFICATION

Administering It:

Naloxone can be sprayed into the nose (intranasal), injected into the muscle (intramuscular), under the skin (subcutaneous) or through an intravenous injection. NARCAN (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray is the most dispensed naloxone brand.

Candidates for Naloxone:

- Someone who is known to have overdosed
- Those receiving rotating opioid medication regimens
- Patients discharged from medical care following opioid poisoning or intoxication

How to identify an overdose?

- Slow or no breathing
- Excessive sweating
- Blue lips
- Gasping, snoring, gurgling
- Pin-point sized pupils



Side Effects of Naloxone: Naloxone use may cause symptoms similar to opioid withdrawal. Some of these symptoms are body aches, dizziness, weakness, diarrhea, stomach pains or nausea, fever and chills, sneezing and a general sense of restlessness or feeling nervous.

Fentanyl

Fentanyl has quickly become a major problem and is a leading cause of the majority of drug overdoses around the world. Fentanyl is a very powerful prescription opioid that is highly addictive. It is similar in make up to heroin and morphine. Fentanyl is also produced illegally in labs that are unsafe and unregulated.

Facts about Fentanyl

- Fentanyl is often mixed with heroin on the street increasing the risk of fatality. This hybrid is often called "Ace of Spades" or "Ace of Hearts".
- When made illegally, fentanyl can be laced with all sorts of harmful chemicals including arsenic.
- Often people become addicted to fentanyl after just one use.
- There has been a rise in heroin overdoses when users unknowingly ingest Fentanyl.

Fentanyl Test Strips

Fentanyl test strips are small strips of paper that can detect the presence of fentanyl in many drugs, such as heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine. These can also be used before taking drugs in pill form, powders or injectables. By using fentanyl test strips to test other drugs for traces of fentanyl, this can greatly reduce the risk of overdose.



Lower your risk of overdose

In addition to using fentanyl test strips, there are steps you can take to lower the risk of overdose.

- **Don't mix drugs.** Combining the use of multiple stimulants, like methamphetamine and cocaine, or depressants like opioids and alcohol, increases your chance for overdose and possible death.
- **Keep Naloxone with you and at home.** If you or someone you know is at risk, talk with a healthcare provider or pharmacist about being prescribed naloxone (Narcan). In some cases, your local health department may distribute naloxone at no cost.
- **Relying on previous experiences is not a good idea.** Just because you may have used drugs before, it doesn't mean your body won't react differently the next time you do. Also, knowing where your drugs came from don't mean they are safe. Many drugs are now made to be more powerful and are often "cut" with other drugs, such as fentanyl.
- **Don't use drugs alone.** Although it's best to not use drugs at all, if you do, make sure someone knows you've taken drugs and that they have naloxone on hand in case of an emergency.
- **Treatment for addiction is necessary.** Ask someone you trust for help. Many people recover from substance use disorders every day. Talk to your healthcare provider about treatment in your area. You can also call the 24/7 National Helpline at 800-662-HELP (4357).



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