



The Value of Carrying Naloxone

Current opioid epidemic

In the last 15 years, over 360,000 people have died in the United States from overdoses related to opioids, and the problem is only getting worse. In just 2017 alone, the U.S. lost over 47,000 people to opioid overdose. This is equivalent to 130 deaths per day. The national epidemic is affecting Indiana as well. In 2017, an average of five Hoosiers died every day as a result of drug overdoses, with the majority of these deaths caused by opioids. These staggering numbers continue to be on the rise.

Whether you are a healthcare provider, first responder, public health official or community member, the opioid epidemic is likely affecting you and your community. **No matter who you are, you can take action to end the opioid overdose epidemic.** One way to do so is to be prepared in the case that someone overdoses on opioids. The most effective way to reverse an overdose is by administering the opioid-reversal medication, naloxone.

What is naloxone?

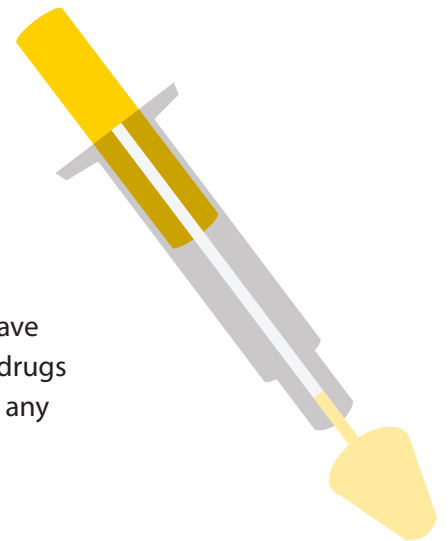
Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan®, is a drug that reverses the effects of opioids. Naloxone can be given to anyone with symptoms of an opioid overdose.

Does naloxone only work for overdoses caused by opioids?

Yes. Naloxone only reverses the effects of opioids such as heroin, methadone, morphine, opium, codeine or hydrocodone. However, many people who overdose have taken multiple drugs, including opioid pain relievers. Even if you are unsure of what drugs the person has taken, you can safely administer naloxone. If the person has not used any opioids, naloxone will not work and will not cause any additional harm.

How can I get naloxone? Do I need a prescription?

You can find a location that dispenses naloxone (such as a pharmacy or your local health department) by searching on **optin.in.gov**. No prescription is needed.



Takeaway: Encouraging first responders and individuals likely to witness an overdose to carry naloxone is an essential action to reverse the opioid epidemic.

Questions? E-mail optin@isdh.in.gov with any questions.



Indiana State
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