

CLASS: A

PROTOCOL(S) USED IN: Altered mental status, Poisoning & Overdoses

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:

- A. Narcotic antagonist
- B. Competitively binds to narcotic sites, but exhibits almost no pharmacologic activity of its own.
- C. Duration of action is 30-80 minutes.

INDICATIONS:

- A. Reversal of narcotic overdose
- B. Coma of unknown etiology

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

None noted

SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:

- A. Acute withdrawal symptoms in addicted patients
- B. Be prepared to restrain patient
- C. Titrate dosing to keep patient awake, responsive and free from respiratory depression, but somewhat groggy.
- D. Patients who have received Narcan must be transported to the hospital because coma may recur when Narcan wears off.

ADULT DOSING:

Reversal of opioid effects, coma of unknown etiology –

0.4 - 2mg IV/IO/IM/IN to a max dose of 8mg, initial dose titrated to patient's respirations.

*if no response, repeat 2mg dose up to 8mg

*larger and repeated doses may be required to reverse Darvon overdose

PEDIATRIC DOSING:

If suspected opiate overdose

0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/IN to a maximum of 2 mg.