



[Home](#)

2. [Narcan](#)

3. [Consumer Information](#)

Narcan (injection)

Generic name: [naloxone](#) (injection) [*nah-LOX-one*]

Brand names: Narcan, [Zimhi](#)

Drug class: [Antidotes](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 4, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is naloxone?

[Naloxone](#) is used in an emergency situation to treat a known or suspected [opioid overdose](#) in an adult or child.

This medicine should not be used in place of emergency medical care for an overdose.

Naloxone may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Naloxone side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives, difficult breathing, swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Because naloxone reverses opioid effects, this medicine may cause sudden withdrawal symptoms such as:

- [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), [diarrhea](#), stomach cramps;
- [fever](#), sneezing, [sweating](#), body aches, weakness;
- tremors or shivering, [fast heart rate](#), pounding heartbeats, increased blood pressure;
- goose bumps;
- runny nose, yawning; or
- feeling nervous, restless, or irritable.

Sudden withdrawal symptoms in a baby younger than 4 weeks old may be life-threatening if not treated the right way. Symptoms include unusual crying, stiffness, overactive reflexes, and [seizures](#). Call your doctor or get emergency medical help if you are not sure how to properly give this medicine to a baby.

Common side effects of Narcan may include:

- nausea, dizziness;

- skin redness where an injection was given;
- feeling lightheaded; or
- yellowing of the skin or eyes.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Narcan side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Kloxxado

Kloxxado (naloxone hydrochloride) is used for the emergency treatment of opioid overdose. Includes ...

Reviews & ratings

1 Reviews

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Omvox

Omvox is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

Reviews & ratings

1 Reviews

[View more](#)

Evzio

Evzio auto-injector is used for the treatment of an opioid emergency such as an overdose with signs ...

Reviews & ratings

1 Reviews

[View more](#)

Zimhi

Zimhi is used for the treatment of an opioid emergency such as an overdose or a possible opioid ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Naloxone is used to reverse the effects of opioid medicine and treat an opioid overdose. **An opioid overdose can be fatal.** Symptoms may include severe [drowsiness](#), pinpoint pupils, slow breathing, or no breathing.

A person caring for you can give the naloxone if you stop breathing or don't wake up. Make sure any person caring for

you knows where you keep naloxone and how to use it.

Your caregiver must get emergency help after giving a naloxone injection and may need to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on you while waiting for help to arrive. You may need another injection every 2 to 3 minutes until emergency help arrives.

Before taking this medicine

You should not be treated with naloxone if you are allergic to it.

If possible before you receive a naloxone injection, tell your doctor if:

- you have heart problems.

If you use opioid medicine during pregnancy, your baby could be born with life-threatening withdrawal symptoms, and may need medical treatment for several weeks.

Using naloxone injection while you are pregnant may also cause [opioid withdrawal](#) symptoms in your unborn baby. **However, having an opioid overdose can be fatal to both mother and baby.** It is much more important to treat an overdose in the mother. You must get emergency medical help after using naloxone injection. **Be sure all emergency medical caregivers know that you are pregnant and any follow-up doctor knows you received this medicine.**

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using this medicine.

How is naloxone given?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Naloxone is injected into a muscle or under the skin, or into a vein. The injection may be given by a healthcare provider, emergency medical provider, or a family member or caregiver who is trained to properly give a naloxone injection.

Naloxone is injected into a vein by a healthcare provider.

If you are a caregiver or family member read all instructions when you first get this medicine. If provided, use the "trainer" device to practice giving an injection so you will know how to do it in an emergency. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions. **Seek medical help right away if an accidental needlestick injury occurs.**

Be sure you know how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose in the person you are caring for. **Overdose symptoms may include:**

- slowed breathing, or no breathing;
- very small or pinpoint pupils in the eyes;
- slow heartbeats; or
- extreme drowsiness, especially if you are unable to wake the person from sleep.

Even if you are not sure an opioid overdose has occurred, **if the person is not breathing or is unresponsive, give the naloxone injection right away** and then seek emergency medical care.

Do not assume that an overdose episode has ended if symptoms improve. **You caregiver must still get emergency**

help after giving a naloxone injection, even if the person wakes up. You may need to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on the person while you are waiting for emergency help to arrive.

Naloxone injection is given in the outer thigh. In an emergency, you may give an injection through the person's clothing.

After injecting naloxone, stay with the person and watch for continued signs of overdose. You may need to give another injection every 2 to 3 minutes until emergency help arrives. **Read and carefully follow the instructions provided with this medicine.**

Throw away a prefilled syringe after one use, even if there is still medicine left inside.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Keep the auto-injector in its outer case until you are ready to use it.

 [Detailed Narcan dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Naloxone is used when needed and does not have a daily dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Since naloxone is supplied as the correct dose in a single-dose auto-injector, an overdose is unlikely to occur.

What should I avoid while using naloxone?

Avoid leaving a person alone after giving him or her a naloxone injection. An opioid overdose can impair a person's thinking or reactions.

What other drugs will affect naloxone?

Other drugs may affect naloxone, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

 [Narcan drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Narcan interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Narcan

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Popular FAQ

How do I get free Narcan emergency kits?



How long does Narcan (naloxone) block opiates?



How do you administer Narcan (naloxone)?



How does Narcan (naloxone) work in an overdose?



Is naloxone a controlled substance?



Is naloxone an opioid antagonist?



More FAQ

- [How do you administer Narcan Nasal Spray?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

More about Narcan (naloxone)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(5\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(2\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [FDA approval history](#)
- [Drug class: antidotes](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

- [Narcan drug information](#)
- [Narcan \(Naloxone Injection\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)
- [Narcan \(Naloxone Nasal\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)

Other brands

[Kloxxado](#), [Evzio](#), [Zimhi](#), [Rezenopy](#), [RiVive](#)

Professional resources

- [Narcan prescribing information](#)
- [Naloxone Hydrochloride \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Kloxxado](#), [Evzio](#), [Zimhi](#), [Rezenopy](#), [RiVive](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Opioid Overdose](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.


Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)


Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 7.01.

DRUG STATUS

Availability
OTC Over the counter

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

[5 Reviews](#)

Images

[Narcan 4 mg / 0.1 mL intranasal spray](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.