



Opioid Overdose Prevention

At Ambetter from Arkansas Health & Wellness, we are committed to working with providers like you to find the best care for our members. For patients struggling with opioid addiction and at risk for opioid overdose, having naloxone available could save a life.

What Is Naloxone?^{1,2}

- Naloxone is a drug that reverses opioid overdose.
- Naloxone can help restore breathing and helps reverse the sedation that is consistent with an opioid overdose.
- Naloxone is available as a nasal spray and as an intramuscular injection.

Product	Dose	Details of Use	Cost
Evzio (and generic)	2 mg	Voice instructions. Can be injected into leg muscle through clothes.	\$\$\$
Naloxone (Multi-Use Vial)	1 ml (0.4mg/ml)	Needs to be drawn up with a needle and syringe; injection into leg or shoulder muscle.	\$\$
Naloxone (Single Use with Mucosal Atomizing Device)	2 mg	Requires assembly of unit, then inserted and deployed in nares.	\$
Narcan Nasal Spray	4 mg	Insert in nose and deploy.	\$\$

When to Use Naloxone²

- Overdose: Opioid overdose is life-threatening and requires immediate emergency attention. Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose is essential to saving a life.
- Some signs of opioid overdose include very small pupils, unresponsiveness, extreme drowsiness, and slowed breathing.
- When overdose is suspected, you should call 911, perform CPR if needed, then administer naloxone.
- If you administer naloxone to a person who appears to be having an overdose, but is not experiencing an overdose, it will not cause harm.

Side Effects of Naloxone

- A person who is administered naloxone may develop all the signs and symptoms of opioid withdrawal, including agitation, muscle aches, chills, goosebumps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and tremors.
- Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids. It restores breathing. It can also cause withdrawal-like symptoms, which can be unpleasant. Sometimes, multiple naloxone administrations are needed to reverse the effect of a potent opioid.

How to Access and Use Naloxone

While many first responders now carry naloxone, it is important for providers, patients, family, friends, and the community to be aware of how to access and use naloxone in the case of overdose.

For patients:

The CDC recommends anyone with the following opioid overdose risk factors to have naloxone available:

- Those on prescription opioids
- A history of experiencing an overdose
- A history of substance use disorder
- Active illicit opioid use, regardless of route

Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine use

Naloxone is also recommended for patients at an increased risk of opioid overdose after a period of abstinence, including incarceration or detoxification.

For family and friends:

If someone is concerned about a loved one at risk of opioid overdose, they may be able to access naloxone through their state's standing order at their local pharmacy (third-party prescribing).

Where patients can get naloxone:

- By prescription from a healthcare provider
- At pharmacies with a standing order, meaning under a state-signed prescription order that authorizes the pharmacist to dispense naloxone without a prescription

Additional Support

We're here to help with additional tools and local resources. Please contact us by calling **1-877-617-0390** (TTY: 1-877-617-0392), go to **Ambetter.ARHealthWellness.com**, or visit one of the other helpful resources below.

Prescribe to Prevent: www.prescribetoprevent.org | Prescribetoprevent@gmail.com

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): www.samhsa.gov

Sources:

¹https://prescribetoprevent.org/wp2015/wp-content/uploads/Naloxone-product-chart.17_04_14.pdf

²<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/naloxone>