

Important information about NARCAN®



In 2014, there were two unintentional deaths every hour from prescription opioids. From 1996 through June 2014, layperson administration of naloxone (NARCAN) has saved the lives of more than 26,000 people in the United States.¹

The AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse encourages physicians to consider prescribing NARCAN when clinically appropriate.

What can you do?

Consider prescribing NARCAN to your patients who meet any of these criteria:^{2,3}

- Patients on a high opioid dose (>90 MED)
- Patients on an extended release or long-acting opioid
- Patients on methadone at any dose
- Patients on an opioid and a benzodiazepine
- Patients with a history of substance abuse disorder
- Patients on opioids with children and/or pets in the home
- Patients with a medical condition (e.g., mental illness, respiratory disease, liver or kidney disease, on anti-depressants, sleep apnea) who may be at higher risk for toxicity, respiratory failure, or overdose
- Train friends and family of patients who are at risk to recognize symptoms of opioid overdose

Prescribing:

Efficacy trials showed no statistical difference in rate of response in <10 minutes, or mean response time for IM vs. nasal NARCAN.⁴ About twice as likely to need repeat dosage with nasal vs. IM.

NARCAN Nasal Spray 4 mg. (Kit contains 2 bottles of 0.1 mL). Dosing: 1 spray into 1 nostril. Move the person on their side after giving. May repeat using a new bottle every 2 to 3 minutes. Do not prime the spray (contains one dose).

Naloxone HCl vials (0.4mg/mL and 1 mg/mL multi-use or single use vials). Prescribe 2 vials and IM syringes (3 mL 25 g 1" recommended). Dosing: 0.4-2 mg IV, subQ, or IM into the upper outer thigh or arm. May repeat every 2-3 minutes as needed. If no response after 10 mg, reconsider diagnosis.

Duration of action: 30-81 minutes (mean 64 +/- 12), so administration must be accompanied by a 911 call for medical attention. It is important to stress to the person receiving the prescription that NARCAN administration is not a substitute for emergency medical attention.

Legislation has passed in Arizona allowing a statewide written order for the distribution of NARCAN nasal spray by designated providers, such as pharmacists. Shelf life is approximately one year.

Naloxone injection and NARCAN nasal spray are covered under Mercy Care Plan and Mercy Maricopa formularies.

For more information on NARCAN nasal spray, go to www.narcannasalspray.com, or call **1.844.4NARCAN**.

QB 2628

¹ CDC

² American Academy of Family Physicians

³ The AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse

⁴ Kerr et al (2009), Kelly et al (2005)