



Naloxone (Narcan)

Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication **commonly prescribed with an opioid prescription**. It's safe and simple to use. Whether you or someone in your home has an opioid prescription, or you simply carry it with you in your day-to-day, having naloxone on hand is a smart step to take.

What is naloxone?

Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that reverses opioid overdoses. It works within minutes to restore normal breathing. Think of naloxone as an essential first-aid item. Just like a seatbelt, fire extinguisher, or EpiPen, naloxone is a common and smart safety measure. It can keep you, your loved ones, or your neighbors safe in an emergency.

Naloxone basics.

- Naloxone is available as a nasal spray or injection.
- You can buy it over the counter at most pharmacies.
- Many communities also make it available at no cost.
- Washington has a standing order, so you don't need a prescription to get and carry naloxone.

How does naloxone work?

Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and helps a person wake up and breathe again. Learn how and when to use naloxone: [WAFriendsForLife.com/recognize-and-respond](https://www.wafriendsforlife.com/recognize-and-respond)

- It only works on opioids and won't treat or reverse the effects of other drugs or alcohol.
- It won't harm someone who hasn't taken opioids.
- It isn't habit-forming and is safe to use in an emergency.
- After you give naloxone, call 9-1-1. Like any emergency, if someone is overdosing, they will need medical help.

Why carry naloxone?

It's safe, legal, and easy to use.

- Carrying naloxone is common and encouraged, like knowing CPR or having an EpiPen.
- Naloxone is lifesaving and safe for everyone, including children, pregnant people, and older adults.
- When someone overdoses, they can't give themselves naloxone. By being prepared, you can be the reason they survive.

Learn how and when to use naloxone: [WAFriendsForLife.com/recognize-and-respond](https://www.wafriendsforlife.com/recognize-and-respond)

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