



# What you should know about naloxone

Naloxone is also known by its brand names, Narcan, ReVive and Kloxxado. It is a medication called an “opioid antagonist,” used to counter the effects of an overdose of an opioid, such as fentanyl or heroin. Naloxone is easy to administer, making it ideal for treating an overdose in someone who has been prescribed opioid pain medication or who uses heroin or other street drugs.<sup>1</sup>

## Knowing the signs of an overdose<sup>2</sup>

- Heavy nodding
- No response when you yell the person’s name or rub the middle of the chest hard
- Blue lips or blue fingertips
- Slow breathing (less than one breath every 5 seconds) or no breathing
- Very limp body and very pale face
- Choking sounds or a gurgling, snoring noise

## Where to get naloxone

In addition to being a prescription medication, naloxone is now an FDA approved over-the-counter drug under the brand names Narcan and ReVive.

Visit your local pharmacy or go to [narcan.com](https://www.narcan.com) for more information and to find pharmacy request forms. Go to [kloxxado.com](https://www.kloxxado.com) to learn more about Kloxxado, or visit [harmreductiontherapeutics.org](https://harmreductiontherapeutics.org) for information on ReVive.

## How to test street drugs for fentanyl

Fentanyl test strips are inexpensive and typically give results within 5 minutes, which can be the difference between life and death. Even if the test is negative, take caution, as test strips might not detect more potent fentanyl-like drugs, such as carfentanil.<sup>3</sup>

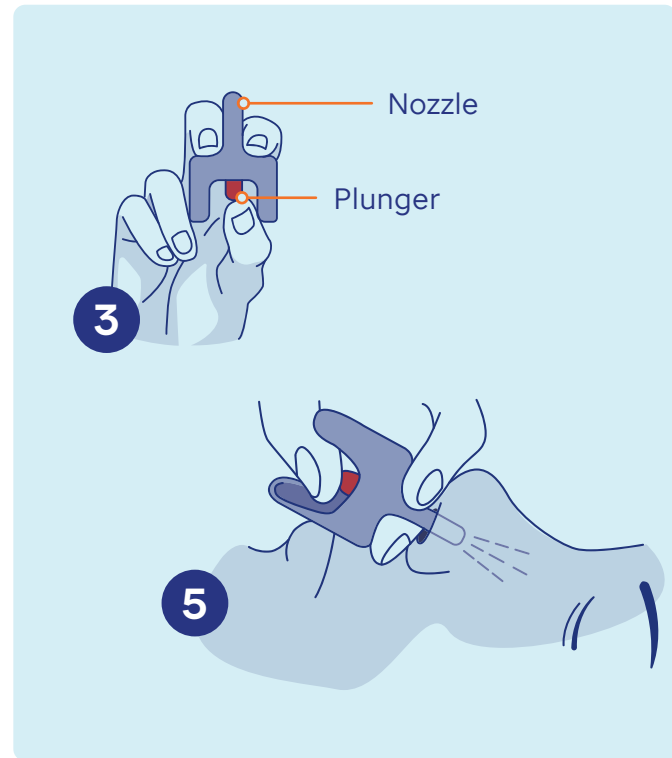
**Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than heroin or morphine.<sup>3</sup>**

# How to use naloxone in an emergency<sup>1</sup>

In the event of an overdose, remain calm and follow these steps to quickly use naloxone in nasal spray form:

- 1 Lay the person on their back to receive a dose of Narcan nasal spray.
- 2 Remove Narcan nasal spray from the box. Peel back the tab with the circle to open the Narcan nasal spray.
- 3 Hold the Narcan nasal spray with your thumb on the bottom of the red plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle.
- 4 Tilt the person's head back and provide support under the neck with your hand. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril until your fingers on either side of the nozzle are against the bottom of the person's nose.
- 5 Press the red plunger firmly to give the dose of Narcan nasal spray.
- 6 Remove the Narcan nasal spray from the nostril after giving the dose.

If you or someone you know is struggling with an opioid addiction, please call the Substance Use Disorder Helpline at **1-855-780-5955** for guidance and referral to treatment.



## Important

If there's no reaction in 3 minutes, give a second dose. Once naloxone is administered, dial 911 immediately, as the drug will wear off in 30 to 90 minutes.

1. narcan.com.

2. Poison Control. Treating and preventing opioid overdose. [poison.org/articles/treating-and-preventing-opioid-overdose-182](https://poison.org/articles/treating-and-preventing-opioid-overdose-182). Accessed June 6, 2022.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fentanyl facts. [cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html](https://cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html). Last reviewed February 23, 2022. Accessed June 6, 2022.

**This service should not be used for emergency or urgent care needs. In an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.** The information provided through this service is for informational purposes only. The nurses cannot diagnose problems or recommend specific treatment and are not a substitute for your doctor's care. Please discuss with your doctor how the information provided may be right for you. Your health information is kept confidential in accordance with the law. The service is not an insurance program and may be discontinued at any time.

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