

Project HOPE



Overdose Response Program

Project HOPE ORP FAQs

1. What are the risks associated with Narcan use?
 - a. The risks are minimal. At most, someone may feel discomfort and nausea after receiving Narcan. With the exception of those who are allergic to the medication, Narcan does not cause any adverse effects.
2. What if Narcan is given to someone who is not overdosing on opioids?
 - a. Narcan will have no effect on someone who does not have opioids in his or her system; it will neither hurt nor help anyone who is not experiencing an opioid overdose.
3. Can I give someone Narcan for a crack/cocaine overdose? Will Narcan work on an alcohol poisoning?
 - a. No, Narcan will only work if the overdose involves opioids.
4. Could someone overdose on naloxone?
 - a. It is not possible to give too much Narcan. If a person is dependent on opioids, however, higher doses of Narcan will make them feel more and more uncomfortable because of withdrawal symptoms. Vomiting is also a possibility, so the person should be rolled on his or her side and supported in the recovery position to keep from inhaling or choking on their own vomit. If a person gets too much Narcan and feels badly, explain that the Narcan is temporary and their feelings will fade in a half hour or so.
5. I have small children at home. What if they find the Narcan and accidentally ingest it?
 - a. It is unlikely to affect them unless •they are allergic to the medication. Narcan is designed to only work if opioids are present in a person's system. There are no adverse effects or negative consequences if the person has not been using opioids. There may be a risk to children not from the Narcan but from the containers and devices used to administer the medication. Some components are small and made of thin glass, which could pose a choking hazard. For this reason, it is best to store your Narcan in a safe place out of reach of small children and pets.
6. Will using Narcan give someone a clean urine result?
 - a. No. Narcan reverses the effects of the opioids on the brain by temporarily displacing them from the opioid receptors, but the opioids remain in the person's body.
7. I hear that Narcan makes people violent. Is that true?
 - a. Narcan itself does not evoke violent behavior. If someone is opioid dependent and too much Narcan is administered and too quickly, or the environment is not calming for the person when they wake up, they may react aggressively. They may also be uncomfortable and feel disoriented, which could contribute to a negative reaction upon recovering.
8. Doesn't the availability of Narcan give opioid users a false sense of security and encourage illicit drug use?

- a. That is a common misperception. Studies have shown that overdose response programs increase awareness and save lives.

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9. Is anyone allowed to confiscate my Narcan?
 - a. Narcan is a legal medication. Your Narcan rescue kit is your own property, like any other possession, and there is no reason for it to be confiscated.
10. What should I do if my Narcan has expired?
 - a. You should replace the Narcan! Ask your physician for a refill or go to the nearest ORP. If you find yourself in a situation where all that is available is expired Narcan, you should use it—expired Narcan is better than nothing. Narcan will lose some of its effectiveness after its expiration date, but it is still safe to use.
11. Well, sign me up! Where can I get Narcan?

Great! In order to get Narcan, you must first be successfully trained at an authorized entity under Alaska's Project HOPE Overdose Response Program. There you will receive an opioid overdose rescue kit that includes Narcan and the supplies needed to administer it.

Phone: 1-(907)-334-2593

Email: ProjectHOPE@alaska.gov

Website: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/default.aspx>