

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What is naloxone?

Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug (i.e. prescription pain medication or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

2) How do I obtain naloxone?

First responders

In order to obtain a prescription for naloxone, you must first complete Department of Health approved naloxone training. Click here for approved trainings. Any first responder agency that is not currently licensed by the Department of Health must first enter into a written agreement with an Emergency Medical Services Agency. This written agreement is valid only under the consent of the EMS Director or another physician.

Family members and friends

Individuals must first get a prescription from a doctor for Naloxone. Naloxone prescriptions can be filled at most pharmacies; however, the medication may not be available for same day pick up.

3) What types of naloxone are available?

Commonly used methods by which naloxone is administered are intranasal (nasal spray), auto-injector, and intramuscular. Please note, not all forms may be available at your pharmacy and coverage may vary depending on the form.

3) How do I administer naloxone?

Intranasal (nasal spray). In order to administer naloxone nasal spray, one will need to obtain the following:

- 2mg/2mL of naloxone (prefilled syringe). Make sure it will be made available at the pharmacy stated on the standing order and/or agreement as some pharmacies may not carry the product.

Prefilled Syringe



Nasal Atomization Device



- Nasal Atomization Device which is **sold separately**. Although this attachment is not normally stocked, your local pharmacy may assist in ordering. Additionally, the nasal atomization device can be ordered from a number of medical supply companies without a prescription. [Link to assembly instructions here](#)

Auto-injector in a manufactured dosage form (similar to an epi-pen)

- On April 3, 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first naloxone auto-injector which can be used intramuscularly (IN) or just below the skin of the thigh area. This form of administration requires no assembly and provides real time instruction. Make sure it will be made available at the pharmacy stated on the standing order and/or agreement as some pharmacies may not carry the product. To read more about this product please visit: <http://evzio.com/patient/about-evzio/what-is-evzio.php>



Dimensions
3 3/8" high
2" wide
5/8" thick



About the height and
width of a credit card



About the thickness
of a smartphone

Intramuscular administration



3) After I obtain a prescription, where can I go to purchase the naloxone?

There are a few ways to obtain the medication and its associated attachments. First, check with your local pharmacies to see if they have the medication, what form they have it available in and if they offer other necessary equipment in the store. If the products you need are not available and time permits, ask your pharmacy if they will assist in ordering. EMS medical supply companies can also be a great way of obtaining supplies of naloxone. Some companies make kits available with all necessary pieces. Most of these companies can be found online.

4) Where do I find an approved online training?

Please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health or the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs websites for approved training venues and supportive information.

5) What is the statutory immunity as described in ACT 139?

Through the 'Good Samaritan' provision of Act 139, friends and loved ones are encouraged to call 911 for emergency medical services in the event an overdose is witnessed. The provision offers certain criminal and civil protections and provides reassurance to the caller that they cannot get in trouble for being present, witnessing and reporting an overdose. Law enforcement entities in other states that have implemented Good Samaritan protections for those who dial 911 in good faith. In Pennsylvania, in order to have immunity the following must occur:

1. Prior to administering naloxone, the person must act in good faith, with reasonable care, and under the belief that the individual was indeed suffering from an opioid-related drug overdose.
2. The person must have completed an approved training prior to administering naloxone to a victim of overdose. Please visit www.givenaloxone.org for available trainings.
3. In the event of an overdose, in conjunction with administering the naloxone, the individual must promptly seek medical assistance.