How to use Narcan nasal spray

Instructions on how to treat an opioid overdose

Narcan (naloxone) nasal spray can save someone who is having an opioid overdose. If you think someone is having an overdose, use Narcan right away — even if you don't know what drugs they took. Narcan only works for opioids, but there is no harm if they took a different drug.

1. Check for signs of an opioid overdose.



Slow, weak or no breathing



Falling asleep or can't wake up



Gurgling sounds in throat



Very small pupils



Cold, clammy skin



Discolored skin (especially lips and fingernails)

2. Give Narcan.

- 1) Lay the person on their back. Tilt their head back.
- 2) Open the Narcan box and peel back the package.
- 3) Hold the nasal spray with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger, and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle. (See image to the right.)
- 4) **Do NOT** test spray the Narcan. They need the full dose.
- 5) Put the tip of the nozzle in 1 nostril.
- 6) Push the plunger firmly to give the entire dose.

3. Call 911 for emergency help.

• Follow the 911 operator's instructions.





4. Roll, watch and repeat if needed.

- Roll the person on their side. Bend their top knee to keep them from rolling on their stomach. Put their arm under their head for support.
- 2) Watch to see if they wake up or start breathing normally. If they don't within 2-3 minutes, give a 2nd dose in the other nostril. You will need a new nasal spray for the 2nd dose.
- 3) If they still don't respond and you have more Narcan, you can keep giving new doses every 2-3 minutes in a different nostril each time. Do this until they wake up or emergency help arrives.



