

## Frequently Asked Questions about Naloxone For Consumers

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### **What is Naloxone?**

Naloxone is a prescription medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose if given in time. Opioids include illegal drugs such as Heroin as well as prescription medications to include codeine, oxycodone, morphine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, fentanyl and buprenorphine.

### **Is naloxone safe?**

YES. Side effects and complications are very rare.

### **Is naloxone safe for pregnant women?**

YES. The benefit greatly outweighs the potential risk.

### **Will naloxone work on other drug overdoses (OD) such as cocaine, or alcohol?**

NO. Naloxone will only reverse the effects of opioid drugs.

### **Am I protected against a lawsuit for giving a person who is overdosing naloxone?**

YES. Florida Statute 381.887 provides civil liability immunity for administration of naloxone (Good Samaritan Law).

### **Am I protected against a lawsuit for NOT giving a person who is overdosing naloxone?**

YES. Florida Statute 381.887 does not create a duty or standard to administer naloxone.

### **How should naloxone be stored?**

The drug should be kept away from extreme temperatures, so it's best to keep it inside.

### **If the person isn't overdosing and I give them Naloxone, will it hurt them?**

NO. If they have taken an opioid it will reverse the effect. If they haven't taken an opioid nothing will happen.

### **What happens if I am exposed to naloxone?**

NOTHING. Accidentally spraying the liquid on your skin will have no effect.

**If someone has received Naloxone for an overdose in the past, will it be effective if they overdose again?**

YES. Naloxone works repeatedly, and regardless of how frequently the patient has used an opioid or how many times they have received naloxone.

**What if the patient is in cardiac arrest?**

Naloxone is unlikely to have an effect on a patient without a pulse, but it will not harm them.

**What if the naloxone doesn't work?**

In the event that naloxone administration has no effect, consider beginning CPR and utilizing an automated external defibrillator (AED) if available. Unarousable patients unresponsive to naloxone may be in cardiac arrest.

**Why can't we rely solely on EMS to respond to overdoses?**

The first person to find someone overdosing has a window of opportunity for immediate reversal of the overdose and potentially saving of a life – it is often a family member or loved one.

**Will increased naloxone availability lead to increase drug use?**

This has not been demonstrated in other communities with increased access to naloxone.

**Why should we wait for EMS if the patient wakes up and wants to leave?**

The half-life of naloxone is much shorter than many opioid drugs, and when it wears off they may fall back into an overdose state.

**What will EMS do upon arrival?**

Per EMS protocols, patients receiving opiate overdose reversal with naloxone are considered “medically incapacitated” and cannot refuse treatment or transport to the hospital per Florida Statute 401.445. EMS will provide supportive care or re-administer naloxone if more is needed.

**Where can I get naloxone?**

**If you have insurance** - please contact your local pharmacy for more information on obtaining naloxone. Many pharmacies have naloxone available without a prescription.

**If you do not have insurance (uninsured or indigent)** – naloxone can be provided for free, without a prescription at the Orange County Medical Clinic located at 101 S. Westmoreland Drive, Orlando, FL 32805. For more information call: 407-836-7160.