

Naloxone for Patients

You or a loved one may be at risk for an accidental drug overdose.

Drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the United States. Most overdoses involve opioids, which include certain prescription pain relievers and heroin.

Common Opioids	Percocet [®] , Norco [®] , Vicodin [®] , OxyContin [®] , Morphine, Oxycodone, Hydromorphone, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone, Codeine, Methadone, Heroin
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Thousands of people die each year from accidental overdoses. The pharmacist has determined you or a loved one may be at risk for an accidental opioid overdose for reasons that may include the following:

✓	Risk Factors for Opioid Overdose
	History of opioid poisoning or overdose
	History of illicit or nonmedical opioid use
	Use of methadone or buprenorphine
	High-dose prescription opioid use (>50 milligram morphine equivalents daily)
	Long-term prescription opioid use (>90 days continuously)
	Long-acting or extended-release prescription opioid use
	Use of opioids from multiple prescribers or multiple pharmacies
	Use of interacting drugs or medications (alcohol, sedatives, antidepressants)
	Underlying disease of key organs (lung, kidney, liver, heart)
	Recent release from drug treatment/detoxification or correctional facility

You should have naloxone at home to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Naloxone is the antidote to an opioid overdose. If you take too much of an opioid medication, take opioids along with interacting drugs, or have a health condition that affects your ability to breathe or process medications, your breathing can slow to the point that you lose consciousness. If this condition persists, it can cause irreversible damage, including death. Naloxone reverses this effect, allowing you to breathe normally. Naloxone is not a controlled substance and it cannot be abused.

If you give naloxone to someone who is not experiencing an opioid overdose, nothing will happen. Naloxone can cause withdrawal symptoms if the overdose victim has developed a physical dependence to opioids. While acute opioid withdrawal is not generally life-threatening, it is still essential to call emergency medical services after administering naloxone. If you try to save a life with naloxone, you are protected by law from any liability regardless of the outcome.

Naloxone is available in several different versions. Some versions of naloxone are injected into the victim's thigh or upper arm, while others can be squirted into their nose. Your pharmacist can help you determine which version of naloxone is right for you. Check out OperationNaloxone.org to learn more about staying safe with opioids.