

Learn more about Naloxone

FENTANYL IN LA COUNTY

What is naloxone (Narcan)?

Naloxone, which also goes by the brand name Narcan, is a lifesaving medication that reverses an opioid overdose. It is a nasal spray or injection that will restore the normal breathing of someone who has overdosed on an opioid and stopped breathing. Naloxone will work within 1-2 minutes after administration and additional doses can be administered every 90 seconds if the person hasn't started breathing again. Multiple doses of naloxone may be needed for high potency opioids such as fentanyl.

What does it do?

Naloxone blocks the opioid receptors in the brain. It removes opioids that activate opioid receptors and reverses the effects of the opioids to restore breathing. Naloxone can stay in someone's system for about 30-60 minutes until help can arrive.

Who can administer naloxone (Narcan)?

Anyone can administer naloxone after watching naloxone training videos that are [readily available online](#). The CA Good Samaritan Law protects anyone acting in good faith from any civil prosecution if they administer Narcan to someone in an emergency overdose situation. Naloxone is effective for youth who have overdose, and possession of naloxone and rescuing youth who have overdoses with naloxone does not require parental consent.

When does naloxone (Narcan) expire?

Each Narcan will have an expiration date printed on the box and typically has a shelf life of 36 months. The expiration date can be extended by a couple of years if it is stored in a cool, dry place.

Can someone get addicted to naloxone (Narcan)?

No. Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids, is an antidote to opioid overdose, and is not an addictive substance.

What are some other common misconceptions about Narcan:

Having a naloxone kit does not increase a person's opioid or other substance use. If naloxone is administered to someone who has overdosed on anything other than an opioid—including alcohol, benzodiazepines (such as Xanax), stimulants, or psychedelics—Narcan will not have any effect, and would not worsen the person's non-opioid overdose.

What are common side effects to Narcan?

After administering Narcan, people who have overdosed on opioids including fentanyl will start breathing again. People can experience flushing, dizziness, anxiety, irritability, body aches, and some confusion.

Where can someone get naloxone (Narcan)?

Los Angeles County Residents can ask their healthcare provider for a prescription for naloxone. Additionally, some pharmacies may provide naloxone without a prescription, and a list of participating pharmacies is available online [here](#). Lastly, Los Angeles County residents can visit <http://www.LAodprevention.org> for a list of additional online resources.

