

Opioid Overdose Reversal Medications



What are they?




Opioid overdose reversal medications can restore breathing after an opioid overdose to save a life.

These medications include naloxone and nalmefene, which come in a variety of doses and are administered via nasal spray or intramuscular injection.

All forms of overdose reversal medicines can effectively reverse an opioid overdose—including overdoses involving fentanyl.

Anyone can use any formulation of medication to reverse an overdose, though some populations may prefer a specific dose or administration method. This is why it's important to make sure all products are accessible, and to be familiar with the different opioid overdose reversal medications.

The table below describes the available medications, where to find them, and who may prefer each type.

What type of product?	Type of Medication	Where is it available?	Who might use this?
Intranasal Spray (sprayed into one nostril)	 Naloxone (3mg & 4mg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelves of retail pharmacies including big box stores with pharmacies • Certain state/local health departments • Harm reduction organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who use drugs • Family, friends, and community bystanders of people who use drugs • Organizations that serve people who use drugs • Law enforcement first responders • School officials
	Naloxone (4mg & 8mg) Nalmefene	Pharmacies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement first responders • School officials • Family, friends, and community bystanders of people who use drugs • People with a prescription for an overdose reversal medication
Syringe & Vial (injected intramuscularly)	 Naloxone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm reduction organizations • Medical settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who use drugs • Organizations that serve people who use drugs • Emergency/hospital medical professionals • First responders trained to inject
Injector (injected intramuscularly)	 Naloxone (5mg)	Pharmacies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family, friends, and community bystanders of people who use drugs • First responders • School officials • People with a prescription for an overdose reversal medication