

OPIOID OVERDOSE AND NALOXONE

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE CAN SAVE A LIFE!

WHAT IS AN OPIOID?

Opioids include both prescription pain medications—such as oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, codeine, and fentanyl—and drugs like heroin. These substances are often used for pain relief, but taking more than the body can tolerate can lead to unconsciousness, respiratory failure, and death.

WHAT IS AN OPIOID OVERDOSE?

Opioid overdoses happen when someone takes a larger amount of an opioid than their body can handle. Opioid overdose can lead to death.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE INCLUDE:

- UNCONSCIOUSNESS
- SLOW, WEAK OR NO BREATHING
- CHOKING OR GURGLING SOUNDS
- SMALL, CONSTRICTED “PINPOINT PUPILS”
- COLD AND/OR CLAMMY SKIN
- LIMP BODY
- DISCOLORED SKIN (LIPS AND NAILS)

WHAT IS NALOXONE?

Naloxone (brand name “Narcan”) is a safe, easy-to-use medication that can rapidly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It works by blocking opioid effects and can restore normal breathing within minutes.

In most states, including South Carolina, naloxone is available at your local pharmacy without the need for a prescription.



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HOW TO USE NALOXONE

Naloxone is available as a nasal spray or an injection into a muscle.



To administer the naloxone nasal spray, place the tip of the nozzle in one nostril and press the plunger firmly to release the dose. If, after 2 minutes, the person has not responded, use a second dose in their other nostril.

In South Carolina, Good Samaritan laws protect the individual experiencing the overdose and those providing assistance from arrest or legal charges.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING:

STEP 1:
CALL 911
IMMEDIATELY

STEP 2:
ADMINISTER
NALOXONE

STEP 3:
ATTEMPT TO KEEP
THE PERSON AWAKE
AND BREATHING

STEP 4:
LAY THE PERSON
ON THEIR SIDE TO
AVOID CHOKING

STEP 5:
STAY WITH THEM
UNTIL EMERGENCY
RESPONDERS
ARRIVE

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[In Crisis? Call or text 988](https://www.naloxonesavessc.org)

www.naloxonesavessc.org

www.justplainkillers.com

www.samhsa.gov/find-support

