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# NALMEFENE (Opvee) Fact Sheet for Patients

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**Generic Name:** Nalmefene (nal-muh-FEEN)

**Brand Name:** Opvee

**What Does It Treat?**

Nalmefene is used to reverse opioid overdose in emergency situations.

**How Does It Work?**

Nalmefene is an opioid blocker that quickly counteracts the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose by binding to the same receptors in the brain as opioids, temporarily reversing their effects.

**How Do I Use It?**

- Opvee comes in a nasal spray form. During an overdose, a person nearby can spray it into one nostril, wait two to three minutes, and, if needed, repeat the process in the other nostril. This can continue every few minutes until the person wakes up.
- Nalmefene also comes as an injection that can be administered into a vein, into a muscle, or just under the skin.
- Since some opioids may stick around in the body longer than nalmefene, it's crucial to get emergency medical help immediately to prevent another overdose episode. If the person isn't breathing, start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until professional help arrives.

**Where Do I Get It?**

Opvee is available through a prescription and is dispensed at a pharmacy.

**What Are Possible Side Effects?**

- There are very few or no side effects if there are no opioids in your system. If you do have opioids in your system, nalmefene can cause withdrawal symptoms.
- Most common: Symptoms of opioid withdrawal, including body aches, sweating, runny nose, sneezing, goosebumps, yawning, weakness, shivering or trembling, nervousness, restlessness or irritability, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal cramps, increased blood pressure, and rapid heartbeat.

**What Else Should I Know?**

- Tell those around you that you have nalmefene, and make sure they know how to recognize an overdose and how to use the medication.
- After using nalmefene, immediately call 911 and avoid using more opioids.
- Nalmefene doesn't last as long as some opioids, so overdose symptoms may return after the initial improvement. Always seek medical attention after using an emergency dose of nalmefene.