
NALOXONE (Kloxxado, Narcan Nasal Spray, RiVive, Zimhi) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Naloxone (nal-OX-one)

Brand Names: Kloxxado, Narcan Nasal Spray, RiVive, Zimhi

What Does It Treat?

Naloxone is used to reverse opioid overdose in emergency situations.

How Does It Work?

Naloxone 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?

- Naloxone, Kloxxado, and RiVive come 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.
- Naloxone also comes as an injection that can be administered either into a muscle or just under the skin.
- Since most opioids stick around in the body longer than naloxone, 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?

Naloxone is available through a prescription, can be dispensed at a pharmacy without a prescription, or can be sold over the counter. Various organizations that aim to reduce harm from drug use also distribute naloxone, often for free. You can find such places on the National Harm Reduction Coalition's website (www.harmreduction.org).

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, naloxone 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 naloxone, and make sure they know how to recognize an overdose and how to use the medication.
- After using naloxone, immediately call 911 and avoid using more opioids.
- Naloxone doesn't last as long as most opioids, so overdose symptoms may return after the initial improvement. Always seek medical attention after using an emergency dose of naloxone.