



Things to Know About Prescribing Naloxone

What are the benefits of naloxone?

- Naloxone is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression¹
- Naloxone may be administered IV, IM or intranasally

Things to Know About Prescribing Naloxone

Who should receive a prescription for naloxone?

- Patients prescribed greater than or equal to 50 MME (morphine milligram equivalents) per day²
- Patients taking opioids at any dose who have one or more of these risk factors:³
 - » Patients with a history of IV drug use or misuse of opioids
 - » Patients who are prescribed opioids in conjunction with antidepressants, benzodiazepines or alcohol
 - » Patients with a history of prior overdose
 - » Patients who take opioids and have a mental illness
 - » Patients who live in remote or rural areas with limited emergency medical care access

Reminders for Patients Prescribed Naloxone

When discussing naloxone, use it as an opportunity to remind patients of safe medication habits:

- Not starting any new medications without talking to their doctor or nurse practitioner
- Storing medications in a secure place, away from children and pets
- Taking medications exactly as prescribed - not taking more often or more than prescribed
- Asking their doctor, nurse or pharmacist any questions they may have
- Not sharing medication with others
- Not mixing opioids with alcohol, benzodiazepines (Xanax®, Ativan®, Klonopin®, Valium®) or medicines that make them sleepy

References:

1. Narcan® (naloxone hydrochloride) intranasal [prescribing information]. Radnor, PA: Adapt Pharma; January 2017.[cited 2018 Nov 29] Available from: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/narcan-assets-uswest/NARCAN-Prescribing-Information.pdf>
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3. Wilder CM, Miller SC, Tiffany E, et al. Risk factors for opioid overdose and awareness of overdose risk among veterans prescribed chronic opioids for addiction or pain. J Addict Dis. 2016;35(1):42-51. Doi: 10.1080/10550887.2016.1107264

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