

Naloxone for All (patient information)

Naloxone is now available over the counter!

On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized pharmacies to sell Narcan® Nasal Spray over the counter because it meets four general criteria:

(1) People can recognize an opioid overdose

(2) The benefits of increased access outweigh potential risks

(3) Health practitioners are not needed for safe and effect use of Narcan®.

(4) There is low potential for misuse and abuse

Signs of an opioid overdose may include:

- doesn't wake up when shaken or called
- shallow breathing
- limpness
- blue lips, gums, and/or fingertips
- very small pupils
- clammy skin.

An opioid overdose can be fatal and can be reversed using naloxone. **There is no danger in administering naloxone to someone who is not using opioids or is having another medical emergency.**

Good Samaritan laws **protect anyone from liability for administering naloxone** if you believed the person was experiencing an opioid overdose and you called for medical help/911 after giving the medication.

Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids on the body and cannot be misused or abused.

Bring naloxone home!

Most opioid overdoses in Philadelphia happen indoors. Ready availability of naloxone in households can prevent an overdose death.

Naloxone is not just for people who use drugs. If you have any prescription opioids in your medicine cabinet at home, then you should have naloxone at home too.






Many people may not realize they're at risk of an overdose. Fentanyl has been found in not just heroin, but also cocaine, crack, and counterfeit pills (sold as Xanax, Percocet, or other prescription drugs).

If naloxone is only available to people who ask for it, we may miss the opportunity to prevent the overdose of someone who is unaware of their risk of overdose and uses prescription or illicit drugs infrequently.

Carrying naloxone and keeping it in your home means you're equipped to **save a neighbor, friend, roommate, or loved one** if needed.

What are the different types of naloxone?

Naloxone medication can be administered using different devices, described in the table below:

Product	Narcan®	Prefilled luer lock syringes	Kloxxado®	1 ml Naloxone vial with syringe	ZIHMI®
					
Route	Nasal Spray	Nasal Spray	Nasal Spray	IM injection	IM injection (auto-injector)
Single Dose	4 mg	1 mg	8 mg	0.4 mg	5 mg
Available Over the Counter?	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Available via mail	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

All types of naloxone are available without a prescription.

IM = intramuscular

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How do I get naloxone at a pharmacy?

Walk in and ask for naloxone! You don't need a prescription because Pennsylvania has a "standing order" for naloxone. Under city law, pharmacies in Philadelphia must stock naloxone.

Do I need insurance to get naloxone?

No. You can get naloxone with or without insurance.

How much will I have to pay for naloxone?

People insured by Pennsylvania Medical Assistance (Medicaid) do not have a copay. Other insurance providers may charge a copay. Your pharmacist can help you choose the most affordable option. You can also use the Pennsylvania Department of Aging Coupon to cover up to \$75 in copay or to purchase over-the-counter naloxone (e.g., Narcan®). Visit the Naloxone Action Kit for Pharmacists to access the \$75 Department of Aging naloxone coupon: <https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Billing>

How many refills can I have?

There is no limit to the number of refills you can receive. Pennsylvania's Standing Order recommends pharmacists provide refills for naloxone as needed. Refill naloxone if it has been used, lost, damaged, or expired.

What if the pharmacy does not have naloxone?

Visit www.phillynaloxone.com or www.substanceusephilly.com for information on how to get naloxone from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health free-of-charge. You can also complete a report to inform the Department that the pharmacy did not have naloxone. <https://tinyurl.com/Naloxone-Redcap>

How do I get naloxone through the mail?

Next Distro is a mail-based harm reduction program that mails naloxone to people who use drugs and their families. You do not need insurance to receive naloxone through this service. Learn more at nextdistro.org/philly

Will I get instructions on how to use naloxone?

Yes. The pharmacist should provide a short training and written instructions on when and how to use naloxone to respond to an opioid emergency or overdose. The pharmacist may also ask a few questions to make sure you understand how to use naloxone. If your pharmacist does not provide you with this information, see the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's naloxone brochure here: <https://www.phila.gov/documents/2023-naloxone-action-kit-for-pharmacists/>

For training on how to use naloxone and reverse an overdose, go here:

- www.phillynaloxone.com
- <https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Training>

For instructions on how to use Narcan® nasal spray, go here:

- <https://tinyurl.com/Next-Distro-Video>
- <https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Video>

Carrying naloxone is an act of caring for your friends, family, and community.
