

FACT SHEET
Opioid Poisoning & Naloxone

What is Naloxone?

Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid poisoning. It is commonly available as an easy-to-use nasal spray and an intramuscular injection.

When to Give Naloxone?

Naloxone should be provided to any person who is not breathing normally and/or who is unresponsive if you suspect they are suffering from opioid poisoning.

You will not hurt a person by giving them naloxone, even if they are not actually suffering from opioid poisoning, and naloxone can easily save someone's life. For these reasons, naloxone is an exception to the usual rule about administering medication: You can give naloxone to any person who might need it, even if they are not able to ask for your help in administering it.

Care for Opioid Poisoning

If you suspect opioid poisoning, call EMS/911 and get an AED and naloxone if available.

Check the person and proceed based on what you see. Naloxone can cause rapid changes in the person's condition so re-check them frequently.

If person is **UNRESPONSIVE** but **BREATHING NORMALLY**, administer naloxone and monitor the person closely.

The person is **UNRESPONSIVE** and **NOT BREATHING NORMALLY**, start CPR and administer naloxone (as soon as possible). Continue CPR until EMS personnel arrive or the person's condition improves.

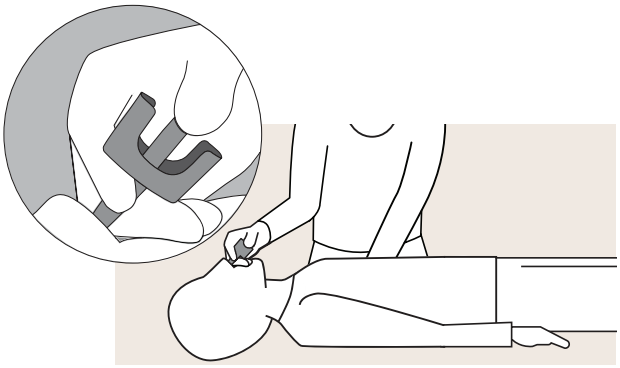
Copyright © 2023 The Canadian Red Cross Society
1-877-356-3226 | myrc@redcross.ca | redcross.ca

How to Give Nasal Naloxone

Always call EMS/911 and get an AED (if available) before providing naloxone.



1. Remove the nasal spray device from the packaging.
2. Place your thumb on the plunger and hold the nasal spray tip between your middle and index fingers.
3. Gently tilt the person's head back slightly and support it in this position.
4. Insert the tip of the device into one of the person's nostrils until your fingers come into contact with the bottom of the person's nose.
5. Administer the entire dose of medication by pressing firmly on the plunger, and then remove the device from the person's nostril immediately.





For more information on this and many other first aid topics, refer to **www.redcross.ca/comprehensivefa**, or download the Canadian Red Cross First Aid App.

OHR Project content is developed with and approved by the CRC Opioid Harm Reduction Advisory Council. To learn more about the Project or the Council, visit **www.redcross.ca/ohr**.

This initiative was funded by a contribution from Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

Copyright © 2023 The Canadian Red Cross Society