



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Consumers on Naloxone

1. What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a medication designed to reverse opioid overdose rapidly. It binds to opioid receptors in the body—the same parts of the nervous system that opioid drugs target. When this happens, it can reverse and block the effects of other opioids. It can restore normal respiration very quickly to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped because of overdosing with heroin or prescription opioid pain medications.

2. How do I use it?

Naloxone is commonly given through intramuscular injection or intranasal atomization. In addition, an electronic device with an auto-injector (like those used for epinephrine) has recently been FDA-approved. For a free naloxone training near you, please visit the [Division on Mental Health Naloxone Website](#).

3. Where do I get it?

At a pharmacy. You may also obtain it at [Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs](#) and [Harm Reduction Centers](#) (also known as Syringe Access Programs). Please call these entities in advance to see if they have an available supply of naloxone.

4. Do I need a prescription?

You may obtain naloxone via a prescription from your healthcare provider.

A growing number of pharmacies and pharmacists can dispense naloxone without a prescription because they have obtained [a standing order](#).

[Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs](#) and [Harm Reduction Centers](#) also dispense naloxone without a prescription.

Please call these entities in advance to see if they have an available supply of naloxone.

5. How much does it cost? And how do I pay for it?

When buying naloxone, the price can vary greatly depending on your insurance plan and the type you want to buy. Generic naloxone can cost between \$20 and \$40 per dose, while Narcan can cost around \$130 to \$140 for a kit that includes two doses.

You should check with your insurance to see if they will cover it. There is no cost or co-pay for Medicaid recipients. If you do not have insurance or your insurance does not cover it, you will have to pay out of pocket.

You may also obtain it for free from [Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs](#) and [Harm Reduction Centers](#).

6. Can I purchase anonymously?

Just like any other usual prescription medication, you cannot purchase anonymously. The information that is shared will be subject to the same level of state and federal privacy safeguards as with any other prescription.

7. Can I purchase for a loved one or another person at risk for an overdose?

Call your pharmacy in advance. Those pharmacies with a standing order may dispense naloxone without prescription to a person who seeks to administer to another person at risk of an overdose.

In these circumstances, the pharmacist will record the dispensation of naloxone under your name with the label “caregiver” to indicate that you will be administering to someone else at risk of an overdose.

You generally will have to pay out of pocket for naloxone in these circumstances, but some forms of naloxone may be available to third parties with limited out-of-pocket expense through the manufacturer’s programs or insurance.

You may also obtain naloxone for free at [Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs](#) and [Harm Reduction Centers](#).

What is free naloxone day?

As noted in the other FAQs, you must either pay out of pocket or use insurance to acquire naloxone and you cannot get anonymously. On June 18, 2019, the State of New Jersey is making an exception to these circumstances to increase access by conducting a one-day event allowing individuals to anonymously obtain one dose of free naloxone at [participating pharmacies](#).

Please see the [Updated Guidance for Pharmacists Dispensing Opioid Antidotes](#) and [the FAQs for Pharmacists](#) for further guidance.