

Naloxone Ampoule Administration

Naloxone is a medication which temporarily reverses the effect of opioid drugs such as oxycodone, morphine, codeine, fentanyl, methadone, buprenorphine, tapentadol, tramadol and heroin. It is available free from selected pharmacies and other authorised suppliers.

Like all other drugs, opioids have side effects. The most serious side effect of opioids is their effect on breathing. When the amount of opioid in the person's blood exceeds their tolerance, breathing is compromised, it slows down and it can completely stop causing death. This is commonly referred to as opioid overdose, although it can occur at any dose. This is because the dose at which breathing becomes affected varies between individuals, and individual's tolerance can also change in response to certain risk factors. Other terms for opioid overdose are opioid severe reaction, opioid slowed breathing and opioid toxicity.

RECOGNISE THE SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE/SEVERE REACTION

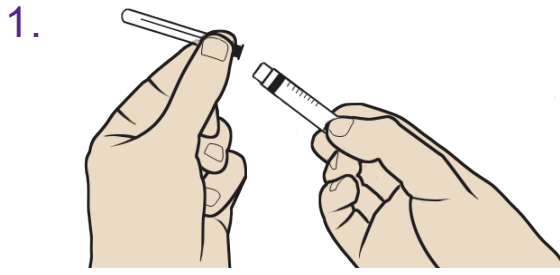
- body is limp / floppy
- loss of consciousness (passed out)
- slow breathing / no breathing
- gurgling / choking sounds
- pale clammy skin
- fingernails / lips turning blue
- pin point (very small) pupils

RESPOND TO OPIOID OVERDOSE/SEVERE REACTION

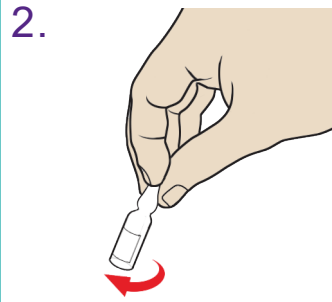
D Danger	Is the area safe and free for hazards?
R Response	Try and gain a response. Can you hear me? Open your eyes? What is your name? Squeeze my hands? If no response, squeeze their shoulders and rub their sternum.
S Send for help	Call 000, ask for an ambulance.
A Airways	Open persons mouth and make sure it is clear. If something in mouth - place in recovery position and clear contents with finger.
B Breathing	Look - Is chest rising and falling? Listen- Put ear near mouth and nose and listen for breathing. Feel – Put hand on lower chest and feel for breathing. See other side for instructions on how to administer naloxone. If breathing – administer naloxone and place in recovery position. If not breathing or not breathing normally - give two rescue breaths, then administer naloxone and commence CPR.
C CPR	Commence CPR - 30 chest compressions : 2 breaths Naloxone can be repeated every 2-3 minutes, and CPR continued until ambulance arrives or persons breathing returns to normal.
D Defibrillator	If available - follow instructions from machine.

- **Naloxone is only a temporary solution (30 to 90 minutes) – once it wears off a person can overdose again – ALWAYS CALL AN AMBULANCE and STAY WITH THE PERSON**
- **Naloxone is safe and will not cause harm if it given to someone who is not experiencing opioid overdose**

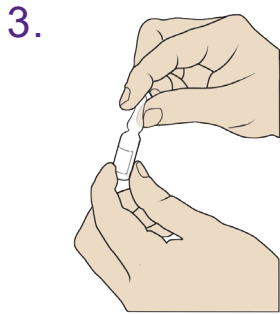
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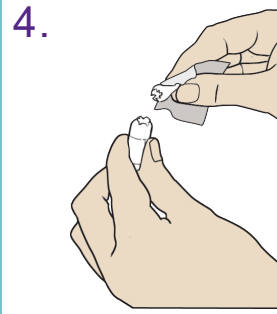
1. Attach a 23G needle onto a 3 mL syringe



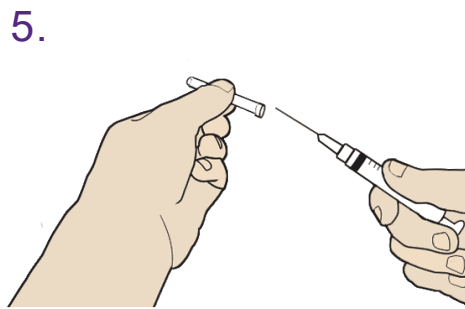
2. Swirl the ampoule so the content falls to base.



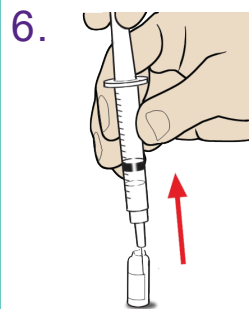
3. Hold ampoule at base with one hand and pinch the top with the other hand.



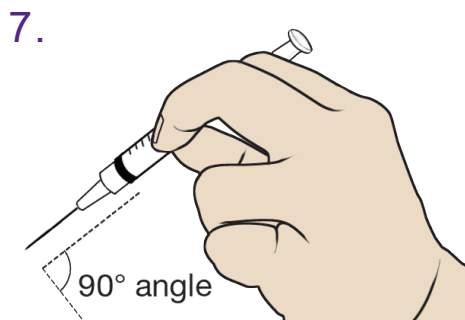
4. Snap the top off (away from you) where the ring sits (you may hold with a tissue to stop accidental cuts) - Place ampoule on a table.



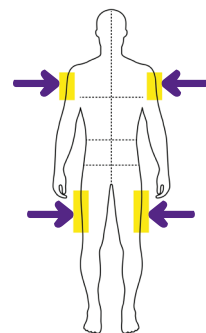
5. Remove sheath from needle.



6. Insert needle into ampoule and draw the plunger up to obtain all of the solution.



7. Inject entire amount at a 90 degree angle in the upper arm (deltoid) or outer thigh.



NOTE: Pharmacy or Authorised Alternative Supplier must supply needles and syringes separately.

IF BREATHING PLACE IN THE RECOVERY POSITION

1. Raise arm



2. Support head



3. Lift leg



4. Roll over



IF NOT BREATHING and you feel comfortable commence CPR - 30 compressions + 2 breaths

Continue until ambulance arrives or person responds.

Dose can be repeated every 2 to 3 minutes if person is not responding.

Images sourced with permission from Pennington Institute.



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Department of Health and Aged Care



Australasian College
of Pharmacy
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