

# Naloxone overdose response plan

Information shared by [crescentcare.org](http://crescentcare.org)

## 1

### Check if they are responsive

Give them a light shake, yell their name. Is there any response? Are they breathing? If you can't get a response, try a sternum rub (rub your knuckles on their chest bone for about 10 seconds).

## 2

### Clear their airway

Make sure nothing is in their mouth. Tilt their head back and lift their chin, if possible. If you're familiar with rescue breathing, pinch the nose, make a seal over the mouth, and give two rescue breaths. Note that mouth-to-mouth contact comes with some risk of disease transmission.

## 3

### Give a first dose of naloxone

**IM naloxone (vial):** Inject one full vial into the muscle of the thigh, upper arm, or butt.

**IM naloxone (autoinjector):** Follow instructions to inject into the muscle of the thigh.

**Nasal:** Administer one nasal spray up the nose.

## 4

### Call 911

You don't need to mention drugs on the call; stick to the basics. Give the location and say, "My friend is unconscious and not breathing."

## 5

### Give additional doses of naloxone

If there is no response, give an additional dose of naloxone every 2-3 minutes. You cannot administer too much naloxone. If you're familiar with rescue breathing, continue these every five seconds.

### Aftercare

**IMPORTANT:** Remind the person that naloxone will wear off in about 20-40 minutes. If they do not go to the hospital, stay with them for at least 60-90 minutes or until the naloxone wears off to make sure the overdose symptoms do not return.

Adapted with permission from (and gratitude to) [maineaccesspoints.org](http://maineaccesspoints.org)

# Accessing naloxone at your local pharmacy

## What to know:

- In the state of Louisiana, anyone can access naloxone at a pharmacy without a prescription, thanks to a standing order issued in 2017. (**La. R.S. 40:978.2 and LAC 46:LIII.2541**)
- Some pharmacists aren't aware of this. Background information for them is included below.
- If your local pharmacists are not complying with the standing order, reach out to your primary care provider to see if they are willing to write you a prescription for naloxone. You can also file a complaint at: [pharmacy.la.gov](http://pharmacy.la.gov)
- Louisiana Medicare and Medicaid currently cover the full cost of naloxone. Private insurance usually covers a majority of the cost.
- Organizations in your community may distribute limited free naloxone. Syringe access programs (SSPs), regional Human Services Districts and Authorities, and other local public health organizations are good resources to inquire about naloxone access.

## A note for pharmacists:

### **Copied from Louisiana Medicaid Provider Update - April 2021:**

*In January of 2017, the State of Louisiana issued a "standing order" for naloxone. This allows for participating pharmacists to dispense naloxone to laypeople including caregivers, family, and friends of an opioid user. This standing order also includes directions on how to administer naloxone to someone who has overdosed.*

*The standing order, originally signed by Dr. Rebekah Gee who was the Secretary of Health and Hospitals at the time, is the result of legislation that made it legal for medical professionals to prescribe naloxone. The order allows anyone to get naloxone from a participating pharmacy in case they need to assist someone who is overdosing.*

*Those who receive naloxone will be provided education about how to recognize an overdose, how to store and administer the medication, and will be given information about emergency follow-up procedures.*

*Any pharmacy licensed by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy may rely on this standing order for the distribution or dispensing of naloxone or other opioid antagonist to any Louisiana resident. To comply with the record-keeping requirements found in the Board of Pharmacy rules and regulations, the pharmacist shall attach a copy of this standing order to the invoice, or other record of sale of distribution. Further, the pharmacist shall store these transaction documents with the other distribution records in the pharmacy.*