

CLASS: A

PROTOCOL(S) USED IN: Altered mental status, Poisoning & Overdoses

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:

- A. Narcotic antagonist
- B. Competitively binds to narcotic sites, but exhibits almost no pharmacologic activity of its own.
- C. Duration of action is 30-80 minutes.

INDICATIONS:

- A. Reversal of narcotic overdose
- B. Coma of unknown etiology

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

None noted

SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:

- A. Acute withdrawal symptoms in addicted patients
- B. Be prepared to restrain patient
- C. Titrate dosing to keep patient awake, responsive and free from respiratory depression, but somewhat groggy.
- D. Patients who have received Narcan must be transported to the hospital because coma may recur when Narcan wears off.

ADULT DOSING:

Reversal of opioid effects, coma of unknown etiology –

0.4 - 2mg IV/IO/IM. Repeat dose prn.

OR administer **4 mg IN** (contents of 1 nasal spray) as a single dose in one nostril; may repeat every 2 to 3 minutes in alternating nostrils OR **2 mg (1 mg per nostril) using injectable solution (delivered with a mucosal atomization device)**; may repeat in 3 to 5 minutes if respiratory depression persists.

PEDIATRIC DOSING:

If suspected opiate overdose

0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/IN. Repeat prn.