

NARCAN® — a Lifesaving Dose of Reality

In 2020, 1,227 people died of an opioid-related overdose. How can you help save Wisconsin lives? By carrying NARCAN®. It's a safe, effective way to reverse the effects of an opioid-related overdose. Opioids include oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine (often combined with other medications to treat cough like Robitussin®), and morphine (MS Contin®)—all available legally by prescription—as well as fentanyl, which is available legally by prescription, but often made and distributed illegally. Heroin is an illegal opioid. The use of prescription painkillers in a way other than directed by a health care professional and the use of heroin are known as opioid misuse. The harms of opioid misuse, like an overdose, can impact any family in Wisconsin. So do your part to prevent opioid-related deaths and talk about NARCAN® with your loved ones. Real talk and real action can save lives.

Is NARCAN® safe? How does it work?

It is extremely safe. NARCAN® rapidly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose for 30 to 90 minutes, and only affects people with opioids in their body. People who take or use opioids may experience unpleasant—but not life-threatening—withdrawal symptoms after receiving NARCAN®.

NARCAN® is an easy-to-use nasal spray that is FDA-approved and available in one-dose dispensers.

Where can I get NARCAN® in Wisconsin?

NARCAN® is available for purchase without a prescription at many pharmacies in Wisconsin. Many health insurance plans cover a portion of the cost.



NARCAN® is also available for free through the NARCAN® Direct Program. Find locations near you offering NARCAN®: <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/safer-use.htm>

Do you need a prescription for NARCAN®?

No prescription is required.



Find NARCAN® for free or for purchase at [doseofrealitywi.gov](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/safer-use.htm)

We can all help prevent opioid-related deaths by carrying NARCAN®, calling 211 to find resources, treatment options, and support, and by talking with others. When we talk openly about opioids, we can prevent opioid-related deaths. Learn more about opioids and NARCAN® at [doseofrealitywi.gov](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/safer-use.htm)

dose
of
reality

Prevent opioid harm.
It starts with real talk.

Signs of an Overdose

Signs of an overdose include



Unresponsiveness or unconsciousness



Slowed or stopped breathing



Snoring or gurgling sounds



Cold or clammy skin



Discolored lips or fingernails

How to Give Someone NARCAN®

To prevent or reverse an opioid overdose



Call **911** and follow the instructions they give you.



Place tip of nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the nose.



Press the plunger firmly to release the dose of NARCAN®.



If there is no response after 2-3 minutes, give a second dose.

Why is it important to call 911?

Some health conditions, like a heart attack, can be easily mistaken for an overdose. And NARCAN® does not help people who are not experiencing an overdose. That's why it is critical to seek medical attention right away. In Wisconsin, state laws protect those who make a good faith effort to help others in life-threatening situations, even when a controlled substance is involved.

If a person who experienced an overdose is not taken to a medical facility for observation, they should be monitored for 2-5 hours to ensure that the overdose does not reoccur.

How many doses of NARCAN® are necessary?

If there is no reaction in 2-3 minutes, give a second dose. It is important to call for medical assistance to ensure enough NARCAN® is available to reverse the overdose.

As non-prescription opioids like heroin and illicit fentanyl get stronger—and opioids continue to be added to substances without users' knowledge—accidental overdoses and the need for multiple NARCAN® doses are on the rise.