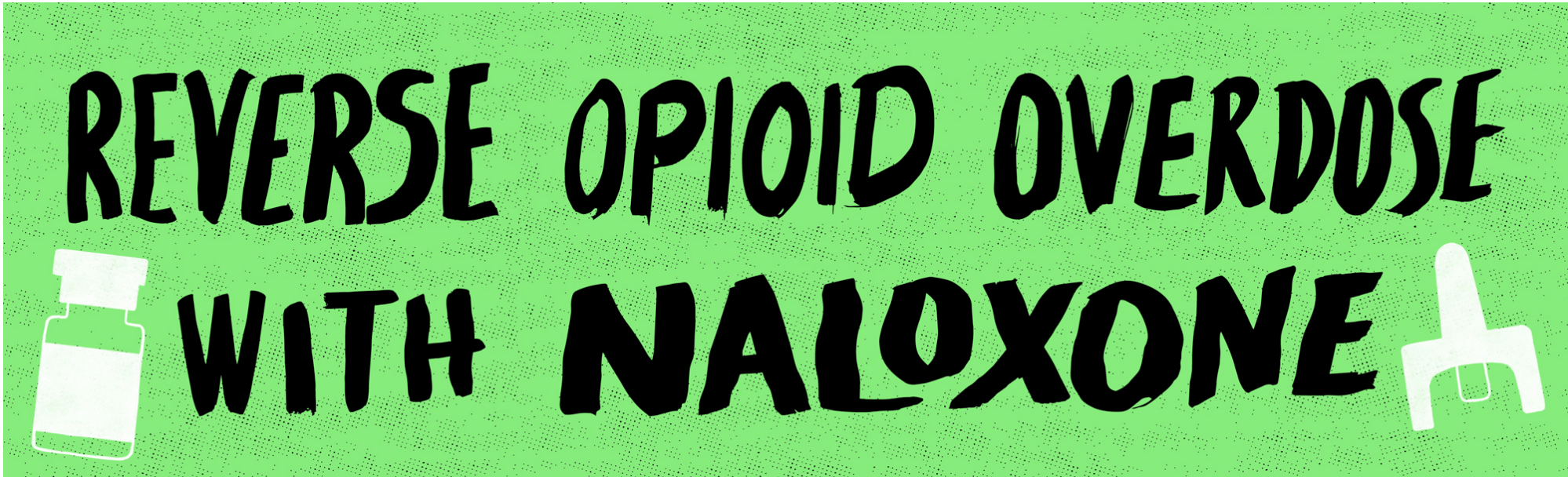




# Stop Overdose

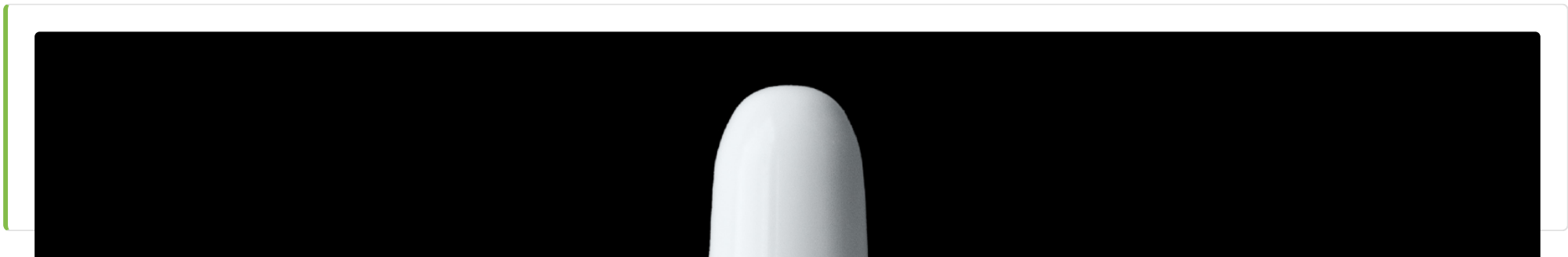
[Stop Overdose Home](#)

## Lifesaving Naloxone



### What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids—including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications—when given in time.<sup>1</sup> Naloxone is easy to use and small to carry. There are two forms of naloxone that anyone can use without medical training or authorization: prefilled nasal spray and injectable.



### How does naloxone work and how do you use it?

Naloxone works by blocking the effects of opioids. It can reverse an overdose, even stopped as a result of opioids like fentanyl are involved.<sup>2</sup>

Naloxone is used to reverse the effects of opioids, including on drugs other than opioids.

If you are unsure how to use naloxone, call 911 or your local poison control center for help. Naloxone is available in several forms, including nasal spray, injection, and oral tablets.

Good Samaritan laws are in place in [most states](#) to protect those who are overdosing and anyone assisting them in an emergency from arrest, charges, or a combination of these.

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## Why carry naloxone?

### Naloxone saves lives

Nearly 50,000 people died from an opioid-involved overdose in 2019.<sup>3</sup> One study found that bystanders were present in more than one in three overdoses involving opioids.<sup>3</sup> With the right tools, bystanders can act to prevent overdose deaths. Anyone can carry naloxone, give it to someone experiencing an overdose, and potentially save a life.

## Who should carry naloxone?

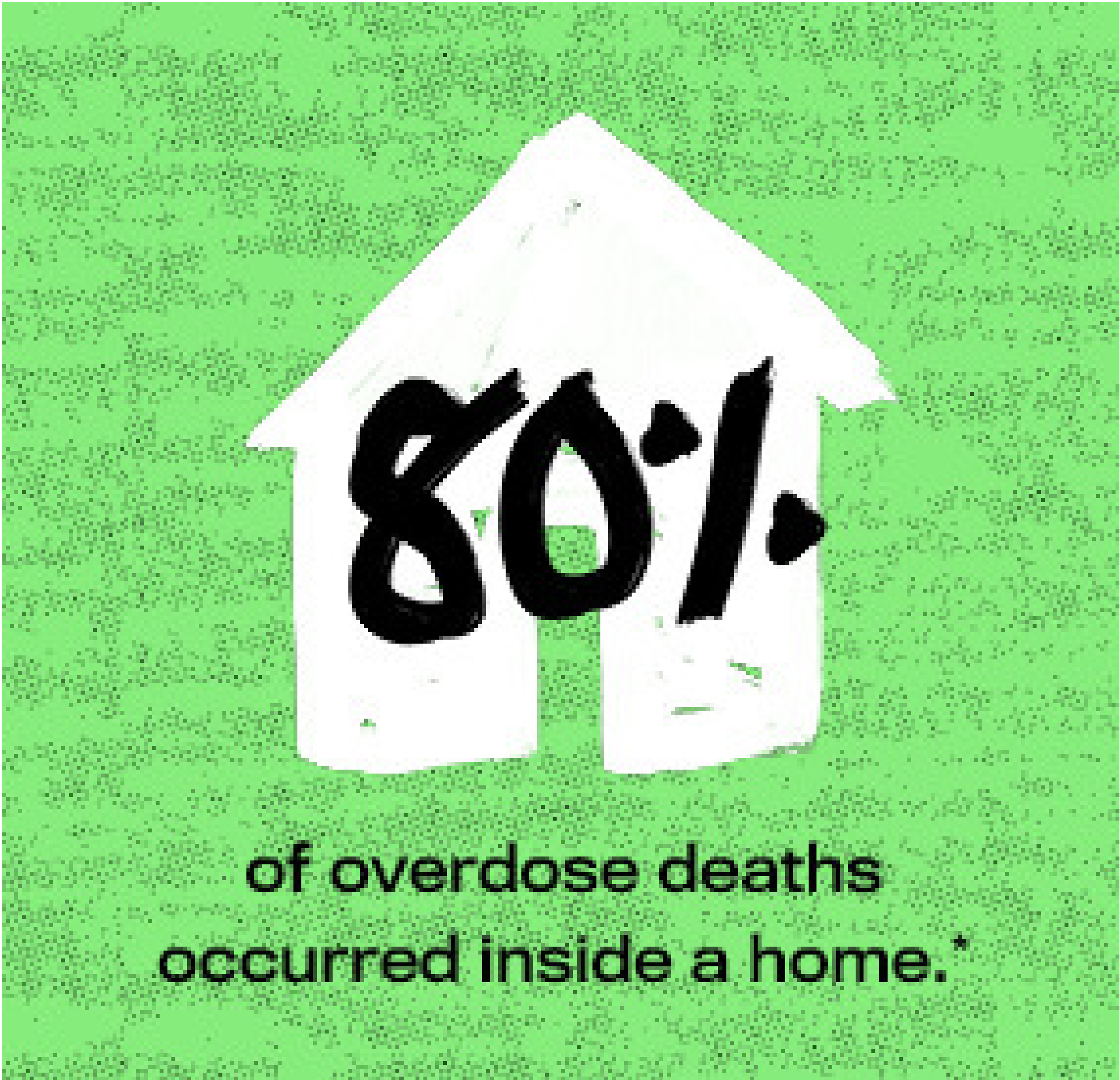
If you or someone you know is at increased risk for opioid overdose, especially those struggling with **opioid use disorder (OUD)**, you should carry naloxone and keep it at home. People who are taking high-dose opioid medications (greater or equal to 50 morphine milligram equivalents per day) prescribed by a doctor, people who use opioids and benzodiazepines together, and people who use illicit opioids like heroin should all carry naloxone. Because you can't use naloxone on yourself, let others know you have it in case you experience an opioid overdose.

Carrying naloxone is no different than carrying an epinephrine auto-injector (commonly known by the brand name EpiPen) for someone with allergies. It simply provides an extra layer of protection for those at a higher risk for overdose.

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In nearly 40% of overdose deaths, someone else was present.<sup>4</sup> Having naloxone available allows bystanders to help a fatal overdose and save lives.

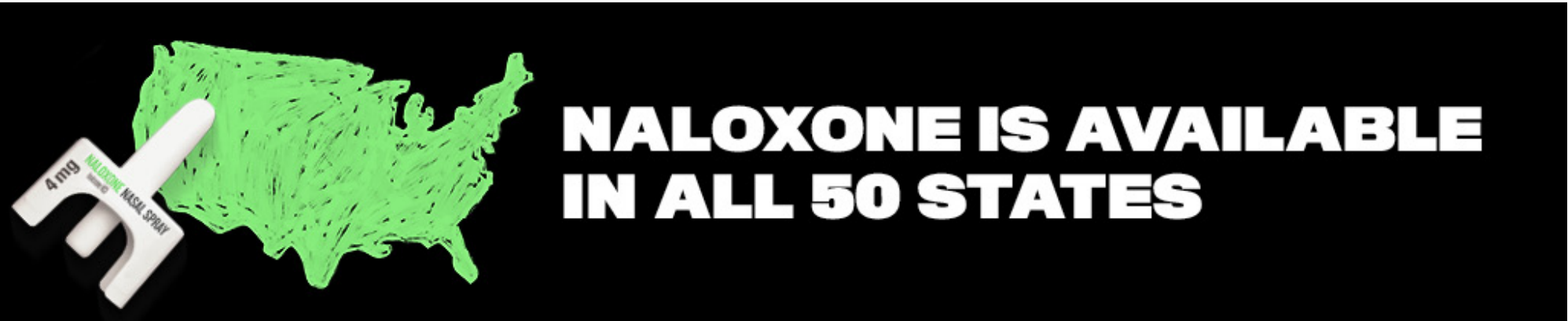
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\* Based on a CDC Vital Signs report.

## Naloxone is available in your state.

Naloxone is available in all 50 states. If you have been prescribed high-dose opioids, talk to your doctor about co-prescribing naloxone. However, in most states, you can get naloxone at your local pharmacy without a prescription.<sup>1</sup> You can also get naloxone from [community-based naloxone programs](#) and most [syringe services programs](#).



Signs of overdose

Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

Protect friends and family with lifesaving naloxone (:60)



Protect friends and family with lifesaving naloxone (:60)

Protect friends and family with lifesaving naloxone (:30)



Protect friends and family with lifesaving naloxone (:30)

Protect yourself from the dangers of fentanyl (:60)



Protect yourself from the dangers of fentanyl (:60)

Protect yourself from the dangers of fentanyl (:30)



Protect yourself from the dangers of fentanyl (:30)



Understanding the risks of mixing drugs (:6...



Understanding the risks of mixing drugs (:60)

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### What to do if you think someone is overdosing

It may be hard to tell whether a person is high or experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, treat it like an overdose—you could save a life.

**1**  
Call 911 Immediately.\*

**2**  
Administer naloxone, if available.

**3**  
Try to keep the person awake and breathing.

**4**  
Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.

**5**  
Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.

*\*Most states have laws that may protect a person who is overdosing or the person who called for help from legal trouble.*

### Related Resources

[CDC Podcast – Lifesaving Naloxone](#)  [MP3 – 17 MB]

[Reversing Opioid Overdoses with Lifesaving Naloxone](#)  [PDF – 8 MB]

[Reverse Overdose to Prevent Death](#)





[Overdose Deaths and the Involvement of Illicit Drugs](#)

[Life-Saving Naloxone from Pharmacies](#)

[Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

## References

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Last Reviewed: April 21, 2023