

NALOXONE

Q&A's



QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

1

“How effective is naloxone at preventing overdose deaths?”

One study showed 96 of 100 people survive an overdose when they are given naloxone.¹ More overdoses are treated when more naloxone is handed out and more people are trained.²

2

“Can naloxone be administered to anyone?”

Yes! Naloxone can be administered to all ages,³ including those who are pregnant, who have heart or kidney disease, or who have any other health condition. Naloxone is very safe.

3

“What if my kit is expired or exposed to high or low temperatures?”

Store kits at room temperature and replace every 2 years. In an emergency, use the kit you have! Studies have shown that naloxone remains stable even after exposure to extreme temperatures⁴ and after a kit expires.

4

“Naloxone won't increase opioid use, right?”

No. Studies have shown that there is no increase in drug misuse when naloxone kits are handed out.⁵ Naloxone is a lot like epinephrine (EpiPen®) for allergies: both help in an emergency.

5

“How well does naloxone work for overdoses caused by fentanyl?”

Naloxone works well for overdoses caused by fentanyl. Overdoses involving fentanyl may or often need more than 2 doses of naloxone. If an overdose is suspected, administer a dose of naloxone every 2-3 minutes until the person responds. Giving multiple doses is OK!

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¹McDonald R et al. (2016). Addiction. Are take-home naloxone programmes effective? Systematic review utilizing application of the Bradford Hill criteria.

²Chimbar L, Moleta Y. Naloxone Effectiveness: A Systematic Review. J Addict Nurs. 2018; 29(3): 167-171.

³Health Canada. Naloxone. (2019). <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/problematic-prescription-drug-use/opioids/naloxone.html>

⁴Lai D et al. (2019). Harm Reduct J. The effects of heat and freeze-thaw cycling on naloxone stability.

⁵Jones JD et al. (2017) Addict Behav. No evidence of compensatory drug use risk behavior among heroin users after receiving take-home naloxone.

Giglio RE et al. (2015) Inj Epidemiol. Effectiveness of bystander naloxone administration and overdose education programs: a meta-analysis.

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Bell A et al. (2019). Subst Abus. Amount of naloxone used to reverse opioid overdoses outside of medical practice in a city with increasing illicitly manufactured fentanyl in illicit drug supply.

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