

Naloxone (Narcan)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Narcan?

Narcan is a medicine that can reverse an overdose caused by opioid drugs such as:

- Heroin
- Fentanyl
- Certain pain medicines like Percocet or Vicodin

If you are given Narcan during an overdose it will:

- Block the effects of opioids on your brain
- Quickly restore your breathing

Narcan does not reverse overdoses that are caused by drugs that are not opioids such as:

- Cocaine
- Benzos (Xanax, Klonopin, Valium)
- Meth
- Alcohol



NORTHEAST OHIO HOSPITAL
OPIOID CONSORTIUM

Do I need a prescription to get Narcan?

No. In Ohio you do not need a prescription to get Narcan at pharmacies in drug stores or hospitals.

You may also be given a prescription if you were a patient and:

- experienced an overdose
- have been prescribed a high dose of opioid

You or your family can get Narcan for free and with no prescription at 5 locations in Cuyahoga County. (See other side for locations and phone numbers).

Am I at risk for an opioid overdose?

If you take high doses of opioid pain medicine or use other opioids (heroin, fentanyl, opioid pills) you are at risk of an overdose. Cocaine is not an opioid but it is becoming common for it to be laced with fentanyl, and you may not be aware. Fentanyl is a very strong opioid and even tiny amounts can cause an overdose.

Is Narcan harmful?

Narcan is harmless if it is given to you when you are not experiencing an opioid overdose. If you are hooked on opioids and are given Narcan, you will go through withdrawal. Opioid withdrawal can be very uncomfortable but is not life-threatening.

Is Narcan addictive?

No, Narcan is not addictive.

What does it cost?

The cost of Narcan can vary depending on different factors. This includes brand and type of insurance. It is usually covered by Medicare and Medicaid. It is also covered by some private insurance companies. Contact your insurance company to see if you are covered.

It is free at 5 locations in Cuyahoga County (see below).

Average cost to buy without insurance is \$137.50.

Can I obtain Narcan?

Yes! You can obtain and carry Narcan according to state pharmacy rules.

This is true even if you are a mature minor. The US Surgeon General says that everyone should carry Narcan, just in case they are near someone that is having an overdose.

You should carry Narcan if you are:

- taking opioid medications.
- using opioids or cocaine.

Talk to your family, friends, loved ones and roommates about carrying Narcan as well. An overdose can happen anywhere and most overdoses occur outside of a hospital.

Where can I get Narcan?

Ohio allows certain pharmacists and Project Dawn locations to hand out Narcan without a prescription. This includes Walgreens, CVS, Discount Drug Mart, Wal-Mart Pharmacy and Giant Eagle Pharmacies.

The following locations in Cuyahoga County provide naloxone kits for free. Please call for hours:

AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland Wellness Healthcare Clinic

2829 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115
216.621.0766

Circle Health Services

12201 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106
216.721.4010

Cleveland Department of Public Health Thomas P. McCafferty Health Center

4242 Lorain Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44113
216.664.6603

Cleveland EMS Headquarters

1701 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114
216.664.2555

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

5550 Venture Dr.
Parma, OH 44130
216.201.2000

Hispanic UMADAOP

3305 W. 25th St.
Cleveland, OH 44109
216.459.1222



Where do I need to receive Narcan?

You will need to do a short training session on the use of Narcan. This is done by a pharmacist as a safety step. It will take about 15 minutes. The pharmacist will keep a record saying you were trained.