



MARYLAND Department of Health

Naloxone

FACT SHEET

Naloxone, also known by a brand name Narcan, is a prescription medication that safely and effectively reverses heroin, fentanyl and prescription opioid overdoses. It works by removing the opioid from the brain's opioid receptors.

- Side effects from naloxone are **minimal and rare**. The individual having an overdose may experience withdrawal symptoms due to naloxone quickly removing the opioid from the brain's opioid receptors.
- Naloxone does not enable more risky drug use.
- Depending on the strength of the opioid causing the overdose, **more than one dose of naloxone** may be needed to revive the individual.
- There are several ways to administer naloxone. **Intramuscular (injected into the muscle)** and **intranasal (nasal spray)** versions are most common.
- The price of a dose of naloxone varies by form of administration and brand.
- There are two ways to obtain naloxone: 1) from your healthcare provider, and 2) through the Maryland Overdose Response Program (ORP). Local ORP's train individuals to recognize the signs of an overdose, administer naloxone, and care for the person afterwards. Once certified, individuals can get naloxone from any healthcare provider or at a pharmacy without a prescription. Many ORPs provide naloxone on site free of charge.
- Naloxone is covered by Maryland Medicaid and most insurance plans.
 - Medicaid charges a \$1 copay for the most common naloxone brands.
- About the ORP:
 - The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) launched the ORP in March 2014.
 - As of December 2015, pharmacies are able to provide naloxone to ORP certificate holders without a prescription.
 - Through February, 2017, local ORPs trained **42,084 individuals**.
 - There are currently over 60 local ORPs. All local health departments provide training, as well as a number of community organizations, public safety organizations, substance use disorder treatment programs and other health care providers.

Visit **www.NaloxoneMD.org** for more information about the ORP and how to get naloxone.

