

Carrying NARCAN® — a Lifesaving Dose of Reality

The opioid epidemic is growing. The use of illegal opioids (including heroin and some forms of fentanyl) and the misuse of prescription opioids are impacting people across communities, incomes, ethnicities, races, and age groups. In 2020 alone, Wisconsin saw 1,227 opioid-related overdose deaths. How can you help? By carrying NARCAN®, a safe, effective method for rapidly reversing the effects of an opioid overdose.

How does NARCAN® work?

NARCAN® safely reverses the effects of an opioid overdose for 30 to 90 minutes, and only affects people with opioids in their body. It comes in an easy-to-use nasal spray.

Who should carry NARCAN®?

Anyone can carry NARCAN®. In fact, many health experts feel NARCAN® should be a part of every home's first-aid kit. You should carry NARCAN® if:

- You, a friend, or a family member takes or uses opioids.
- You are a health and safety professional (EMS, fire, law enforcement), health care practitioner, or a home health care provider.
- You encounter people who take or use opioids like homeless shelter staff, hotel staff, convenience store workers, and librarians.

When should NARCAN® be given?

The sooner NARCAN® is used, the more successful it can be. NARCAN® should be administered as soon as there are signs of an overdose, like breathing problems, unresponsiveness, snoring, or cold or discolored skin around the lips and fingernails. You may need to deliver more than one dose.

Can I get in trouble for helping someone?

Wisconsin laws state that any person may possess a medication to reverse an opioid overdose, such as NARCAN®. They may also administer or give it. Under the Wisconsin Good Samaritan Law, you cannot be held civilly liable for a good faith effort to provide assistance in a life-threatening situation. State law also provides limited immunity from criminal prosecution for certain amounts of controlled substance possession and the possession of drug paraphernalia for a person who aids another person who experienced an overdose from a controlled substance.

Do you need a prescription for NARCAN®?

No prescription is required.

Where can I get NARCAN® in Wisconsin?



NARCAN® is available for purchase without a prescription at many pharmacies in Wisconsin. It is also available for free through the NARCAN® Direct Program. Find locations near you offering NARCAN® at: <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 doseofreality.gov