

NARCAN FAQ

1. *Is it dangerous to administer NARCAN to someone that doesn't need it?*

NO. NARCAN does not have any contraindications, it cannot be abused, and individuals cannot develop a tolerance to it. NARCAN is safe to administer to someone even if they are not overdosing. If an individual is unresponsive, it is recommended that you call 911 and administer NARCAN. If the individual does not respond to the NARCAN it may not be an opioid overdose.

2. *Can people misuse NARCAN?*

NO. NARCAN cannot be abused or misused. It is a safe and effective medication with no contraindications or health risks.

3. *Will I be liable for the person's death or injury if I administer NARCAN?*

NO. The “good Samaritan law” protects individuals from civil or criminal liability of the individual succumbs to the overdose.

4. *Is NARCAN difficult to use? Will it be hard for people to understand how to administer?*

NO. NARCAN is a quick nasal spray, it takes a few seconds to administer. The administration process is simple and is easy to understand (simply insert nasal spray into nostril and push plunger).

5. *Will having NARCAN in my facility increase the likelihood of people overdosing in my facility?*

NO. There is no evidence to support this claim. Individuals can, will, and have overdosed in various locations across their communities. Often an individual does not immediately overdose and may overdose once the Opioids have overwhelmed their system – this means that they could be in transit somewhere. All community locations are at risk of having an individual overdose in their place of business, regardless of having NARCAN on hand or not.

6. *Does NARCAN encourage people to continue overdosing?*

NO. NARCAN does not encourage continuous substance use. Addiction is a disease characterized by an inability to abstain from a particular substance and is accompanied by physiological dependence of a substance. This means that often times individuals suffering from addiction need to use the substance to feel like themselves. Individuals with this disease will use opioids regardless of having NARCAN available. Addiction treatment requires a multifaceted approach. Narcan saves lives, which is a necessary first step toward engaging the person in treatment, but Narcan alone is not all that is required to address this issue. This underscores the importance of having a wide range of treatment services available, as well as a robust community response to help people gain access to the treatment that they will need in order to interrupt their pattern of drug use.

7. *How should NARCAN be stored?*

NARCAN should be stored at room temperature. It can be stored in hot or cold locations for short periods of time.