

Naloxone Administration

Will administering naloxone hurt someone?

No, serious side effects are rare. Common side effects are related to reversing dependency and precipitating withdrawal symptoms, including fever, hypertension, tachycardia, agitation, restlessness, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal cramping, nervousness, yawning, sweating, shaking, shivering, hot flashes, and sneezing. These symptoms may appear within minutes and subside in about two hours. The severity and duration of the withdrawal syndrome is related to the dose of naloxone and the degree of opioid dependence. Reactions may subside within a few minutes, but may reappear within approximately 90 minutes. It is imperative that the person experiencing an opioid-related overdose receive emergency medical care following naloxone administration. Adverse effects beyond opioid withdrawal are rare.

What will happen if naloxone is administered to someone that is NOT suffering an opioid overdose?

Nothing.

Will naloxone work if someone has used it before?

Yes, naloxone can be used in every opioid overdose situation no matter how many times a person has overdosed in the past. People may respond differently each time but this is often due to the naloxone and the type of overdose occurring.

Is it legal to carry naloxone?

Yes. Kansas law allows anyone to purchase and carry naloxone without a prescription.

Is it legal to administer naloxone to someone else?

Yes, in Kansas anyone may administer naloxone in good faith to a person suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose without being subject to civil or criminal liability.

Will naloxone work in the person overdosed on a non-opioid drug?

No, naloxone will only reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

How fast does naloxone work?

Naloxone usually works within 2 to 5 minutes. If there is no response, a second dose should be administered.