Naloxone 101 **Need to Know**

What is Naloxone and how does it work?

What is Naloxone?

Narcan (Naloxone) is a nasal spray administered to reverse an opioid overdose.





Source: www.schoolhealth.com

How does it work?

- Narcan only works if opioids are present in the system.
- Once administered it takes 3-5 minutes to "kick in".

What happens to the body?

- During an overdose, opioid receptors in the brain are activated.
- Breathing is repressed as a result from the opioids.
- The brain then floods with dopamine resulting from the opioids.
- Dopamine produces an euphoric effect.

When Naloxone is administered...

- Narcan removes the opioid from its receptor, binds to the receptor, and prevents the opioid from binding to it again (Illustrated in figure above).
- When opioids cannot bind to the receptors, the brain does not flood with dopamine.
- This temporarily reverses an overdose (30-90 min).

Important

- A person may need multiple doses of Narcan; depending on their weight, the dose of the opioid in their system, and whether there were mixed drugs involved in the overdose.
- If the victim does not respond to the first dose of Narcan within 3 minutes, administer the second dose in the opposite nostril.



Need to Know

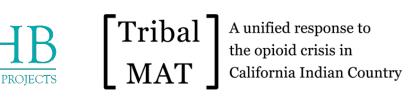
- Narcan has no adverse effects.
- If Narcan is administered without the presence of opioids, it will not help BUT it will also not harm the victim.
- Store Narcan in secure, safe place at room temperature. Do not refrigerate.



Source: minnyapple.com

Source: www.narcan.com





For more information, please contact:

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