

Medication: Naloxone	PDN: 6960.03	Last Updated: June 19, 2013	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 2
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NALOXONE (Narcan)

1.0 Classification

- Opioid receptor antagonist

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Reverses the effects of narcotics, including respiratory depression, by competitively binding to opiate receptors

3.0 Indications

- Narcotic overdose with respiratory/airway compromise despite BLS airway management

4.0 Contraindications

- Cardiac arrest

5.0 Precautions

- Naloxone can cause withdrawal symptoms including combative behaviour in patients with long-standing narcotic use
- Naloxone should be administered slowly and titrated to effect

6.0 Route

- May be given IV, IM, SC, or IN

7.0 Dosage

- Adult**
 - 0.4 mg (IV, SC, IM, IN); repeat as needed.
- Pediatric**
 - 0.2 mg (IV, SC, IM, IN); repeat as needed

8.0 Supplied

- 0.4 mg in 1 mL vial

9.0 May Be Given By

- ICP (with OLMC order)/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects

- Agitation
- Vomiting
- Cramps
- Diarrhea

11.0 Special notes

- The half-life of naloxone is shorter than most narcotics, therefore the patient may return to the overdose state and may require further dosing of naloxone; non-transport risk is very high after administration of naloxone
- If no correction in airway or ventilation after multiple doses, consider differentials

- Naloxone is effective against natural, synthetic, or semi-synthetic narcotics including:
 - Codeine
 - Darvon (propoxyphene)
 - Demerol (meperidine)
 - Dilaudid (hydromorphone)
 - Fentanyl
 - Heroin
 - Lotomil
 - Methadone
 - Morphine
 - Nubain (nalbuphine)
 - Oxycodone
 - Paregoric (anhydrous morphine)
 - Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen)
 - Percodan (oxycodone and ASA)
 - Stadol (butorphanol)
 - Talwin (pentazocine)
- Pregnancy category C [if the patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used]

12.0 References

- Altered Level of Consciousness Clinical Practice Guideline
- Toxicological Emergencies Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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