

What to Do During an Opioid Overdose

If taken differently than prescribed, opioids can be life-threatening. However, a quick response to an opioid overdose by administering Naloxone and calling for medical help may help save someone's life.

Know the signs of an opioid overdose

It may be hard to tell if a person is experiencing an overdose. If you aren't sure, it's best to treat it like an overdose. Here are some signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose:

- Nodding off
- Very small pupils
- Extreme tiredness
- Shortness of breath
- Slow/no breathing
- Unconsciousness
- Limp arms/legs
- Pale skin
- Purple lips/fingernails
- Sounds of distressed breathing or gurgling
- Unresponsive to voice or touch



An opioid overdose is very dangerous. Call 911 if you think someone could be having an overdose. After calling 911, give the person Naloxone.

What is Naloxone and how can it help?

Naloxone is a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose. It can help a person start breathing again if they are having an opioid overdose. At times, it can have unpleasant side effects. It may need to be given multiple times in severe overdoses. It's important to ask your pharmacist or doctor how and when to use Naloxone.