

NALOXONE: MYTH VS. FACT



MYTH



FACT

It doesn't work for fentanyl.



If used right, naloxone will work for any opioid, including fentanyl.

People are always violent after using naloxone.



Naloxone does not cause aggression. Those who have overdosed may experience withdrawal and, as a result, may be confused or may act aggressively.

WHAT TO DO:

Only give one dose of naloxone at a time. If they wake up, explain what happened and tell them help is on the way. Tell the person the withdrawal symptoms will go away soon. If someone is aggressive, use your common sense and avoid confrontation.

Pregnant women should not be given naloxone.



Giving naloxone to a pregnant woman can save the life of the mother and the child.

Children should not be given naloxone.



Giving naloxone is safe for children and can save the life of a child.

Naloxone is only safe for opioid overdoses.



Naloxone is a very safe drug. It will not hurt someone who does not have opioids in their system.

WHAT TO DO:

Give naloxone even if you suspect someone is overdosing as a result of using more than one substance.

Don't use naloxone in case a person is allergic to it.



Allergies to naloxone are rare and happen less than 1 in 10,000 times.

You shouldn't use naloxone if it goes above or below room temperature.



Naloxone should be stored at room temperature, but will still work even if exposed to temperatures between 4°C to 40°C for short periods of time.

WHAT TO DO:

Replace naloxone that has been exposed to temperatures outside 4-40°C. If this is the only naloxone available, use it anyway. It may not be as effective but do not wait for additional help to arrive.

Naloxone should not be used past its expiry date.



Expired naloxone may be less effective, but it can still work

WHAT TO DO:

If the only naloxone available is expired, use it; do not wait for additional help to arrive.

People are using naloxone to 'yo-yo' (i.e., using naloxone to prevent an overdose and get high at the same time).



People who use drugs state that this practice does not make sense and they are not aware of people doing this.

WHAT TO DO:

Be critical of the information you share. Repeating rumours can influence those less experienced to try this dangerous practice.

Using a needle to inject naloxone could pose a risk to the first responder.



The needles that come with injectable naloxone kits automatically retract into the syringe after the naloxone is injected, reducing the risk of needle-stick injury.

Giving naloxone away for free is a waste of taxpayers' money.



Naloxone can be cost saving. Providing community members with naloxone will lower the risk of brain damage due to lack of oxygen, reduce hospitalization and death.

Giving people free naloxone encourages substance use and high risk activities.



There is no evidence that naloxone encourages increased substance use.

People are using the retractable needles that come with naloxone kits to inject their drugs.



People who inject drugs prefer not to use retractable needles as they are not practical for injecting drugs.

You can get an infectious disease when giving naloxone.



Naloxone kits come with disposable non-latex gloves to prevent contact with bodily fluids. Taking precautions and washing hands can prevent infections.