

Take-home naloxone kit

Document for parents



Why have a naloxone kit (brand name Narcan) if you have opioids at home?

Opioids are very effective pain relievers and may be prescribed for your child following an assessment of their medical condition. However, like any medication, side effects can occur in the event of an opioid overdose, i.e., taking more than the prescribed amount of medication. Opioids can interfere with breathing, causing individuals to breathe very slowly to the point where they forget to breathe.

When should naloxone be used?

In the event of an intentional or unintentional overdose by someone at home, whether from a prescription opioid or a non-prescription purchase (e.g., "street" drugs), this kit would be vital. Signs of an overdose may include loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, pinpoint pupils, cold and blue skin.

Is naloxone really effective?

Naloxone can restore breathing in 2 to 5 minutes. Research shows that using a naloxone kit at home successfully reversed the effects of an overdose in over 90% of instances where it was administered.

Can naloxone be given to people of any age?

Naloxone is safe for people of all ages (Health Canada, 2023).

How is naloxone used?

The naloxone kit is easy to use and works quickly. The kit includes a brief, illustrated guide outlining the steps for administering naloxone. If someone shows signs of an overdose, **call 911** and follow the instructions on the guide, while following the 911 operator's instructions if further resuscitation is required.

IMPORTANT: The spray should NOT be tested before administering naloxone, as it only contains one dose. If you press the button prematurely, there will be no naloxone left for the person who is overdosing.

What if I give naloxone unnecessarily, is it dangerous?

Giving naloxone to someone who is not suffering from an opioid overdose is safe and generally does not cause any adverse health effects. If you think it might be necessary, do not hesitate!

How do I get a naloxone kit?

You can get your naloxone kit for free from your pharmacist if you have opioids at home.



CHU Sainte-Justine

3175, chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine

Montréal (Québec) H3T 1C5

Téléphone : 514 345-4931

chusj.org

For more information on naloxone administration

Naloxone — Gouvernement du Canada



How to administer naloxone nasal spray

Canadian Pharmacists Association



Nasal administration of naloxone

MSSS du Québec — Explanatory sheet



For more information on pain management, see

Solution for Kids in Pain

<https://kidsinpain.ca/>



Production

Julie Paquette, CSI • Gabrielle Balcer-Lepage, CSI
Dr Marie-Joëlle Doré-Bergeron • Dr Evelyne D. Trottier

Collaboration

Comité de Gouvernance des analgésiques
Solution for Kids in Pain

Validation

Customer Documents Committee

Printing

Imprimerie du CHU Sainte-Justine
© CHU Sainte-Justine

F-7129A GRM: 30013454 (septembre 2024)