

**Opioid** overdoses have become epidemic. In Connecticut, on average, two people die *every day* from an opioid overdose.

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, can reverse an opioid overdose in a few minutes.

Opioids include street drugs (like heroin) and prescription drugs (like Oxycontin). People do overdose and die from prescription drugs by using too much or mixing them with other pills, street drugs, or alcohol.



**DMHAS**



## How to use Naloxone (Narcan) to reverse an Opioid Overdose



## How to Recognize an Opioid Overdose

- The person does not respond when you call their name, shake them or cause pain by rubbing your knuckles hard on their breastbone.
- Their breathing is too slow (less than 10 breaths/minute) or they aren't breathing at all
- Their skin is blue or gray, especially the lips and fingernails
- They may be making loud, uneven snoring or gurgling noises

## What to do if you think the person has overdosed on opioids

1. **Call 911** – tell them the person isn't breathing or is having trouble breathing and explain your exact location. In Connecticut, you are protected from arrest for drug possession if you act as a Good Samaritan by seeking medical assistance for a person you believe is overdosing.
2. **Rescue Breathing** – you can help the person get oxygen by
  - put them on their back and open their airway by tilting their head back and lifting their chin
  - pinch their nose and give 2 breaths first, then one breath every 5 seconds

- Don't stop unless they revive, EMS arrives or to give the Narcan.

### 3. Give Narcan –



#### For injectable Narcan:

- pop off orange top of vial and insert syringe
- remove 1 cc of Narcan by pulling down on the plunger
- insert syringe into a large muscle and push the plunger in



#### For the Evezio auto-injector:

- Pull the device apart and follow the instructions it provides



#### For the Narcan Nasal Spray:

- Tilt the person's head back while supporting their neck with one hand
- Insert the device in one nostril with the other hand

- Push up briskly on the plunger with your thumb



#### For intranasal Narcan:

- remove the yellow cap atop the plastic tube and screw the atomizer on
- remove the bottom yellow cap and the red cap from the vial; screw the vial into the bottom of the tube
- spray half the vial up each nostril by pushing the vial up through the tube

*Give a second dose of the Naloxone if no response after 2 – 3 minutes*

4. **Recovery Position** – If you must leave the person alone at any time, roll them onto their side so they won't choke if they start to vomit.

