

Which naloxone should you give?

A guide for overdose responders



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Each type of naloxone reverses opioid poisonings. Each type has benefits and limitations. Decide which naloxone works best for you.

INJECTABLE is a good option if:



- You can open an ampoule and inject
- You expect to use it on someone who uses opioids daily
- You expect to use it on someone who has problems with their nose
- You need to give a lower dose of naloxone to avoid withdrawal

NASAL is a good option if:



- You are not comfortable with needles
- You can't give an injection or open a glass ampoule
- You expect to use it on someone who doesn't use opioids daily
- You need to give a higher dose of naloxone



Important things to know about both types:

- Call 9-1-1 any time you give naloxone
- Wait 3 minutes between naloxone doses **and give rescue breaths in between**
- Refresh your training on how to give injectable naloxone every year
- If you live in an area where ambulances can take a while, get trained on how to use both types of naloxone and carry both

Injectable

Benefits

- Works on opioid poisonings
- Gets into the body fast (within a few minutes)
- Works as expected, consistently
- Has a lower dose of naloxone to avoid withdrawal

Nasal

- Works on opioid poisonings
- Fast to prepare and easy to give
- People with different abilities can use
- Works well in difficult or stressful situations

Limitations

- Need training on how to open a glass ampoule and draw up liquid into a syringe
- Need to be comfortable using a needle to inject medicine

- Can take longer to work (at least a few minutes)
- It might not work the same every time
- One dose of nasal is 5 times higher than one dose of injectable, which can cause withdrawal