What to Do in the Event of an Overdose

Naloxone is a medicine that reverses overdose from opioids. Naloxone will only work on opioids but should be given even if the drug is unknown as it will not harm the person. New Hampshire’s Good Samaritan Law provides protections when calling 9-1-1 to save a life, even when drugs are involved RSA 318-B:28-b.

1. CALL 9-1-1
   • TELL operator you are going to be using naloxone.
   • FOLLOW 9-1-1 operator instructions.

2. CHECK for response
   • ASK person if they are ok and shout their name.
   • Try RUBBING your knuckles on the center of their chest and SHAKING their shoulders, if not responsive.
   • LISTEN/FEEL for signs of breathing by placing your ear near their mouth.
   • WATCH/FEEL chest for rising and falling.

3. GIVE naloxone
   • FOLLOW the “How to Use” manufacturers instructions to give naloxone. There are two types of naloxone - injectable and nasal spray.

Opioid Overdose Signs
   • Not responsive
   • Appears blue/purple
   • Makes gurgling/snoring noises
   • Breathing is slow, irregular or has stopped
   • Pupils are small

Nasal spray
Injectable naloxone
4. START rescue breathing

- If the person is not breathing, unresponsive or has shallow or intermittent breathing (only 1 breath every 5-10 seconds):

1. Lay the person flat on their back.
2. Gently tilt their head. Pinch their nose.
3. Give 2 quick breaths in their mouth. Chest should move (stomach should not move).
4. Give 1 slow breath every 5 seconds until they start breathing regularly.
5. If there is no response in 3 minutes, administer an additional dose of naloxone every 3 minutes until the person regains consciousness or emergency services arrive.
6. If trained, start performing CPR if the person is still not breathing and their pulse has stopped for over 5 seconds.

After 3 minutes administer more naloxone if there is no response

5. EVALUATE and SUPPORT

- WATCH the person closely.
- WAIT for emergency personnel to arrive.
- MOVE the person on their side if they start to breathe regularly, but do not wake up.

Knee stops body from rolling onto stomach
Hand supports head

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

For more information on naloxone and opioid overdose, please visit:

www.thedoorway.nh.gov
www.narcan.com
www.samhsa.gov