

Addressing Pain in South Carolina

Quick Reference #7

Naloxone: Facts for Healthcare Professionals

Death from overdose can be prevented, whether a person is at risk due to polypharmacy, combining alcohol with prescribed opioids, misuse of opioids, or opioid use disorder. Naloxone, the antidote to opioid poisoning, should be accessible whenever and wherever overdose can occur. You can help by prescribing naloxone to your patients who are at risk of overdose. This quick reference offers some tools to get you started, and you can learn more by visiting the [South Carolina Overdose Prevention Project](#) website and the [Naloxone Saves SC](#) page.



Helpful Facts to Share With Patients

- In SC, pharmacists can dispense, and [Medicaid will cover](#), most formulations of naloxone.
- SC [Good Samaritan laws](#) protect people who administer naloxone to a person experiencing an opioid overdose from civil or criminal liability.
- [Fentanyl is responsive to naloxone](#) (a common myth is that it is not), but additional doses of naloxone may need to be administered.
- Possessing naloxone [does not enable drug use](#), another common myth.
- If someone is unconscious for reasons other than an overdose, and they receive naloxone, [they will not experience any adverse side effects](#).

OPIOID RISK PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP



BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Comparison of Naloxone Products

The table below offers a helpful comparison of naloxone products.

Product Names	Injectable (and intranasal-IN) generic	Intranasal branded (Narcan Nasal Spray®)	Injectable generic	Auto-injector branded (Evzio Auto-Injector®)
Sig. (for suspected opioid overdose)	Spray 1 ml (½ of syringe) into each nostril. Repeat after 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Spray 0.1 mL into one nostril. Repeat with second device into other nostril after 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Inject 1 mL in shoulder or thigh. Repeat after 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Inject into outer thigh as directed by English voice-prompt system. Place black side firmly on outer thigh and depress and hold for 5 seconds. Repeat with second device in 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.
Rx and Quantity	#2 2 mL Luer-Jet™ Luer-Lock needleless syringe plus #2 mucosal atomizer devices (MAD-300)	#1 two-pack of two 4 mg/0.1 mL intranasal devices or #1 four-pack of four 2 mg/0.1 mL intranasal devices	#2 single-use 1 mL vials PLUS #2 3 mL syringe w/ 23-25 gauge 1-1.5 inch IM needles or #1 10mL multidose vial PLUS #2 3 mL syringe w/ 23-25 gauge 1-1.5 inch IM needles	#1 two-pack of two 0.4 mg/0.4 mL prefilled auto-injector devices or #1 two-pack of two 2 mg/0.4 mL prefilled auto-injector devices
Refills	Two	Two	Two	Two
Cost/kit	\$\$	\$\$	\$	\$\$\$

