

Getting Naloxone in Pharmacies: What You Need to Know

Quick Facts

- Naloxone is a safe medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.
- Opioids are drugs that can slow or stop breathing; they include prescription painkillers and heroin.
- *Anyone* who needs naloxone can get it at participating pharmacies, without a prescription. This includes people at risk of overdosing and people who may witness *someone else* overdosing.

HOW DO I GET NALOXONE AT A PHARMACY?

It's simple: walk into a participating pharmacy and ask for naloxone — you don't need a prescription. To find a participating pharmacy near you, go to nyc.gov/health/map.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF NALOXONE?

There are four types of naloxone:



Single-step Nasal Spray
(Narcan®)



Multi-step Nasal Spray



Single-step Intramuscular
Auto-injector (Evzio®)*



Multi-step Intramuscular
Injection

*The **Evzio® auto-injector** is available without a prescription at CVS, Duane Reade, Walgreens and Stop & Shop.



Let the pharmacist know if you want a specific type of naloxone.

DO I NEED INSURANCE TO GET NALOXONE?

You can get naloxone with or without insurance. The cost of naloxone without prescription coverage is about \$45 for the multi-step intramuscular injection, \$85 for the multi-step nasal spray, \$150 for the single-step nasal spray and \$4,000 or more for the auto-injector. **Naloxone is also available for free at community programs throughout the city.** Visit health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/resources/oop_directory/index.htm or call 311 to find a program.

HOW MUCH WILL I PAY IF I HAVE INSURANCE?

Many insurance companies cover naloxone with little to no co-pay. Check with your insurance to see if there are any additional costs or limits to getting naloxone. There is often an additional charge (usually \$5 or less) for the multi-step nasal spray — even if insurance covers the medicine. The pharmacist can help you choose the most affordable option.

WILL I GET INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE NALOXONE?

Yes. The pharmacist should provide a short training and written instructions on when and how to use naloxone to respond to an opioid emergency or overdose. If your pharmacist does not provide you with this information, visit

nyc.gov/health and search **prevent overdose** to learn more. The pharmacist may also ask a few questions to make sure you understand how to use naloxone.

WILL I GET NALOXONE IMMEDIATELY?

Some pharmacies will have the type of naloxone you want in stock while others may need to order it. If you cannot get naloxone right away, it will usually be available within a few days.

IS IT LEGAL FOR ME TO CARRY AND USE NALOXONE?

Yes. New York State Law allows anyone who has received training at a pharmacy or community program to carry and use naloxone. Additionally, the New York State 911 Good Samaritan Law provides substantial protection to anyone calling 911 to save a life, even if drugs are present at the scene of the overdose.

DO I HAVE TO SHOW MY ID TO GET NALOXONE?

No. Naloxone is not a controlled substance so ID is not required. The pharmacist may ask to see your ID for record keeping purposes, but they will keep your name and information confidential. You will have to show your insurance card if you have insurance.

IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?

No, but a pharmacist can refuse to give naloxone to someone under the age of 16.

WHERE CAN I REFILL MY NALOXONE?

You can refill your naloxone at participating pharmacies. Refill naloxone if it has been used, lost, damaged or expired. The pharmacist may ask a few questions to help the New York City Health Department track naloxone use. The pharmacy and the Health Department will keep your personal information confidential.

DOES NALOXONE EXPIRE?

Yes. The expiration date is marked on the naloxone. Remember to refill your naloxone when it expires.

More Information and Resources

Learn about naloxone:

- Visit nyc.gov/health/naloxone

Learn about overdose prevention:

- Visit nyc.gov/health and search **prevent overdose**.

Find referrals to treatment or harm reduction services for opioid and other substance use disorders:

- **NYC Well:** Call 1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355), text WELL to 65173 or visit nycwell.cityofnewyork.us
- **New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Provider Directory:**
oasas.ny.gov/ProviderDirectory
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Buprenorphine Treatment Physician Locator:** Visit samhsa.gov and search **buprenorphine treatment locator**
- **ThriveNYC Services Finder:** nyc.gov/thrivenyc