



Naloxone in Pharmacies: What You Need to Know

Quick Facts

- Naloxone is a safe medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.
- Opioids are risky drugs that can slow or stop breathing; they include prescription painkillers and heroin.
- *Anyone* age 16 or older who needs naloxone can get it at participating pharmacies. This includes people at risk of overdosing and people who may witness *someone else* overdosing.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I request naloxone at a pharmacy?

It's simple: Walk into a participating pharmacy and ask for naloxone. To find a participating pharmacy near you, go to nyc.gov/health/sitelocator

How much does naloxone cost?

The cost depends on the type of naloxone you request and your insurance coverage. Naloxone comes in three forms: an injection, a nasal spray and an auto-injector. The pharmacist can help you choose the most cost-effective option based on your insurance. If you are paying out of pocket, the cost of naloxone is about \$45 for the injection, \$85 for the nasal spray and \$600 for the auto-injector. **Free** naloxone is also available at community programs throughout the city; find programs by visiting health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/resources/oop_directory/index.htm or calling 311.

Will I get instructions for using the medication?

Yes. The pharmacist will provide a short training and written instructions on when and how to use naloxone and how to respond to an opioid emergency or overdose.

Will I get the naloxone right away?

Some pharmacies will have the form of naloxone you want in stock. Others may need to order it. If you cannot get naloxone when you walk in, it will usually be available within one to two days.

Is it legal for me to carry and use naloxone?

Yes. New York State Law allows anyone who has received proper training (including 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.

Do I have to show my ID to get naloxone?

Pharmacists may ask to see an ID to verify that you are at least 16 years old. Your name and information will be kept confidential and will *only* be used for pharmacy record keeping.

What if I used my naloxone and need more?

Your prescription should come with 12 refills. Revisit the pharmacy when you need a refill, and tell your pharmacist that you used the naloxone. The pharmacist may ask a few questions to help the Health Department track naloxone use. Again, your information will be kept confidential.

Even if you do not have any refills on your prescription, you can always walk into a participating pharmacy and get naloxone. For instance, if you lost or damaged your naloxone, you can request more.

Does naloxone expire?

Yes. The expiration date will be marked on the naloxone. Make sure you check when your doses expire and return to the pharmacy to get a refill.

More Information and Resources

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:

- LifeNet: www.lifenet.nyc or 1-800-LIFENET
- New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Provider Directory: <http://www.oasas.ny.gov/ProviderDirectory/index.cfm>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Buprenorphine Treatment Physician Locator: <http://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/physician-program-data/treatment-physician-locator>
- ThriveNYC Services Finder: <https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us>