

# OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS



EXPANDING ACCESS TO  
NALOXONE IN NYC



# Did You Know?

In New York City, every five hours someone dies of an overdose, and approximately four out of five overdose deaths involve opioids, such as heroin or fentanyl.

Opioid overdose deaths can be prevented with naloxone.

Naloxone (Narcan) is a safe and effective medication that can save someone's life by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. Expanded access to naloxone is proven to reduce rates of overdose death. In New York State, naloxone is available as either an intranasal medication or intramuscular injection to anyone at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose. It is legal for anyone to carry and administer naloxone, and it is dispensed at no cost in overdose rescue kits at hundreds of opioid overdose prevention programs in New York City (NYC).

## Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs (OOPPs) in NYC

After registering with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), OOPPs can order overdose rescue kits at no cost from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) to give out (dispense) to clients, patients, staff and community members.

Organizations eligible to become OOPPs include but are not limited to:

- Health care facilities and practitioners
- Substance use disorder treatment programs
- Nonprofit organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Community centers
- Educational institutions

# What is needed to register as an OOPP?

To register as an OOPP, your organization will need to identify the following:

**Clinical Director:** a health care professional who can prescribe medication. The clinical director signs naloxone order forms and issues standing orders to allow designated staff at your organization to dispense naloxone under their medical license. They do not have to be employed by your organization.

If you need help finding a clinical director, email [naloxone@health.nyc.gov](mailto:naloxone@health.nyc.gov).

**Program Director:** a staff member who is passionate about overdose education and can coordinate naloxone dispensing, manage inventory, and submit reports to the NYC Health Department and NYSDOH. Program director responsibilities can be shared among organization staff.

## OOPP Responsibilities

- Have key staff trained by the NYC Health Department to dispense naloxone.
- Order supplies from the NYC Health Department (at no cost).
- Assemble and give out overdose rescue kits.
- Provide overdose response instruction with every overdose rescue kit dispensed. This instruction can be provided in five-minute conversations or in longer, more formal group settings.
- Submit monthly reports to the NYC Health Department and quarterly reports to NYSDOH.

# Should your organization become an OOPP?

Becoming an OOPP is one way to show your clients and community members who use drugs that you care about their safety. Your organization may want to consider becoming an OOPP if any of the following are true:

- Your organization engages with people who use drugs or have a history of using drugs.
- Your organization engages with people at risk of witnessing or experiencing an overdose.
- An overdose has occurred at or near your organization.
- Your organization is in a community heavily impacted by overdose deaths.

If your organization has questions about becoming an OOPP, email [naloxone@health.nyc.gov](mailto:naloxone@health.nyc.gov). You can complete an OOPP application at [nyoverdose.org](http://nyoverdose.org).

## We are here to help!

The NYC Health Department's Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Unit provides technical assistance to existing and potential OOPPs.

We provide:

- Guidance on identifying key personnel, including a Clinical Director
- Support in registering, starting and running your OOPP
- Training for OOPP staff who will be dispensing naloxone
- Support in developing naloxone dispensing strategies
- Overdose prevention training materials
- Sample dispensing policies and procedures

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **We do not engage with people who use opioids. Should my organization still become an OOPP?**

Naloxone only works to reverse the effects of opioids. However, fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, is being found in heroin, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, ketamine and pills from nonmedical sources, which means anyone who uses drugs in NYC may be at risk for an opioid overdose. Your organization may also be able to get naloxone to the friends or family members of people at risk of overdose. For help deciding if OOPP registration is right for your organization, email [naloxone@health.nyc.gov](mailto:naloxone@health.nyc.gov).

## **What if we cannot identify someone to be the OOPP clinical director?**

The NYC Health Department can help you find a clinical director. Email [naloxone@health.nyc.gov](mailto:naloxone@health.nyc.gov).

## **What if my organization does not offer substance use services?**

Overdose education and naloxone dispensing are important for any organization that engages with people who use drugs or their family and friends. Even if your organization does not offer substance use services, you can still dispense naloxone.

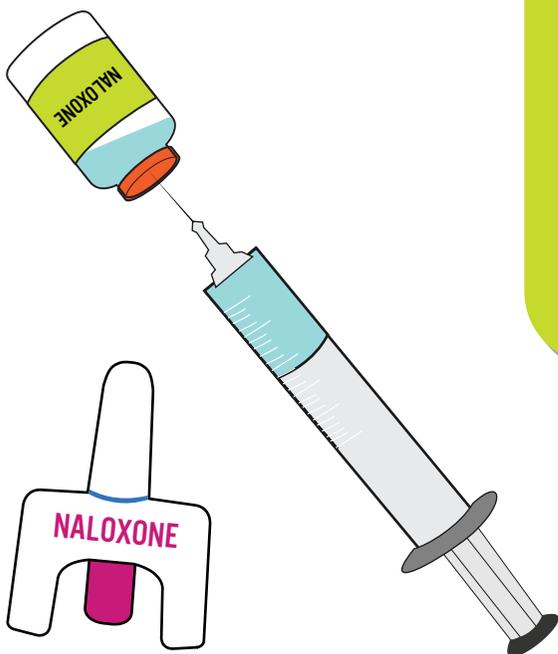
## **We do not have clinical staff. Who can hand out overdose rescue kits through an OOPP?**

Anyone affiliated with an OOPP can dispense overdose rescue kits, after taking a workshop called "Training of Dispensers," which is provided by the NYC Health Department. Dispensers can be peers, social workers, interns, medical professionals and even volunteers!

# Other Ways to Access Naloxone

Visit [nyc.gov/naloxone](https://nyc.gov/naloxone) to learn about other ways New Yorkers can access naloxone:

- Sign up for a free naloxone training and request a free naloxone kit from the NYC Health Department.
- Find an OOPP where naloxone is available for free in your community.
- Find a pharmacy where naloxone can be purchased through insurance or out of pocket.
- Learn how to host a naloxone training in your community.



## Contact Us

For more information about naloxone and opioid overdose prevention programs, email [naloxone@health.nyc.gov](mailto:naloxone@health.nyc.gov) or visit [nyc.gov/naloxone](https://nyc.gov/naloxone).

