

NALOXONE

Additional Names: Narcan

Classification: Opioid Antagonist, Opioid Reversal Agent

Indications: Respiratory depression due to opioid intoxication

Contraindications: Known hypersensitivity

Dosages:

Adult:

Overdose / Acute Poisoning: Suspected Opiate Overdose

0.5-2 mg IV/IM/IO, q2-3 min prn

2-4 mg IN, q2-3min prn

Pediatric:

Pediatric Altered Mental Status: Suspicion of Opiate/Opioid Ingestion

0.1mg/kg IV/IO/IN, q2-3min, titrate prn (max 2mg/dose)

Side Effects: Withdrawal symptoms (especially in neonates), combativeness, hyperventilation, tachycardia, hypertension, nausea/vomiting

Physiological Effects: Naloxone competitively binds to the β -endorphin receptors in the central nervous system, thereby reversing the effects of opiates and their derivatives. Naloxone completely reverses the effects of opioids and causes a sudden onset of withdrawal symptoms.

Additional Info: Naloxone doses should be used to reverse respiratory depression, not to fully awaken the patient. Anticipate combative behavior and ensure provider safety in advance. IV doses greater than 0.5mg increase the risk of flash pulmonary edema – this chance increases in proportion to the administration dose. Synthetic opioids (e.g. fentanyl, carfentanil) frequently require doses greater than 2mg.