

NALOXONE SAVES LIVES



A guide to naloxone A drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose

For more information contact Forward Leeds

You can call 0113 887 2477 9am - 5pm Monday – Friday

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A lot of our recovery and post-treatment work happens at:
5 WAYS @ the Recovery Academy, 43 Westfield Road, Leeds, LS3 1DG (0113 887 2749)

Forward Leeds is a service provided on behalf of Leeds City Council. It is a partnership between Humankind, BARCA-Leeds, St Anne's Community Service and Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.



- Use the kit
- Save a life
- Make a difference



What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a life-saving medication.

Naloxone is an emergency antidote (blocker) to an opioid overdose, such as heroin, codeine, tramadol, etc.

It temporarily reverses the life threatening effects of an overdose.

Naloxone itself has no intoxicating effects, potential for misuse or street value. It is injected directly into the body, so it is quick to take effect.

When should naloxone be used?

Naloxone should be given to any person suspected of having an overdose.

For example:

- Shallow or difficulty breathing
- Pinpoint pupils
- Blue-ish colour to lips
- Unconsciousness
- Deep snoring/'gurgling' noises

If someone has an opioid overdose, naloxone buys time.

Always dial 999 for an ambulance. The person still needs emergency medical care.

What if the person is not having an opiate overdose and I give them naloxone? Will it hurt them?

Naloxone has no effect on someone who has no opioids in their system.

It is unlikely to help anyone who is not in an opiate overdose, but it will not hurt them either.

Is it possible to give someone too much naloxone?

Even if all of the doses are given at once there are no adverse effects directly from the naloxone.

It may be that someone experiences uncomfortable feelings from a fast withdrawal, that is why it is suggested to give one dose at a time.

What happens if I mess up?

Naloxone is simple to administer and you can't really mess up.

Just follow the process you have been trained to follow. You could be saving someone's life.

How do I assemble the naloxone syringe?

Instruction leaflets are included in the naloxone packs.

There are dummy syringes that can be used to practice assembling the syringe to enable you to feel prepared.

The syringes are pre-loaded and the doses marked on the syringe.

Where should naloxone be injected?

It is quicker and easier to give naloxone into a muscle. This is the usual way it is given in Accident and Emergency departments and by paramedics.

It takes 2-5 minutes to have an effect when given into a muscle. If necessary it can be given through clothes.

Always remember to call 999 first then put them in the recovery position. If a person is breathing, make airways clear and inject into the muscle.