



Reviewed: Aug 1, 2018

Street Opioid Resuscitation Recommendations

For the General Public

Treatment for the opioid overdosed person currently consists of supportive care and the antidote naloxone. Naloxone is available in Ontario from pharmacies without prescription, and can be obtained by asking the pharmacist for the medication. (Eligibility includes being a current or past user, being a family member or friend of someone at risk of overdosing, being a client of a needle exchange program or having been recently released from jail). Naloxone is also dispensed free of charge through a number of public health units.

In Ontario, an INJECTABLE naloxone kit consists of 2 vials of 0.4 mg of naloxone (and all of the equipment necessary to draw up the medication) to be given intramuscularly for the person once unresponsiveness has been established. An INTRANASAL naloxone kit consists of 2 pre-loaded devices of 4.0 mg of naloxone to be given as an intranasal spray for the affected person once unresponsiveness has been established. Either kit can be obtained for rescue of an opioid overdosed patient and depends only on personal preference.

See the following website for more information. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-naloxone-kits-free>

When coming upon a potentially overdosed patient, the lay rescuer should

1. Check that the victim is able to be wakened by calling out to them and/or shaking them
2. IF NOT ROUSABLE, Call 911 AND
3. IF AVAILABLE and TRAINED, give 1 vial of naloxone (0.4mg) IM OR 1 spray of naloxone (4.0 mg) into the victim's nostril
4. Start rescue breathing (the "kits" contain one breathing barrier) or chest compressions if trained
5. If no response in 3 minutes, repeat steps 3 and 4.