

Take-Home Naloxone in Western Australia

DECEMBER 2019 – 28 FEBRUARY 2021

What is naloxone?

Naloxone is medicine used to reverse opioid overdose. Opioids include prescribed medicines such as oxycodone and fentanyl and illegal drugs such as heroin.

Who can access naloxone?

Anyone who is at risk of an overdose can access naloxone, including people who are prescribed opioid medicines. People who are likely to witness an opioid overdose can also access naloxone, this includes family members and significant others.

Naloxone can be:

- prescribed by a doctor and is on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for concession card holders
- purchased over-the-counter as a pharmacy-only medicine
- obtained for FREE as part of the Australian Government PBS Subsidised Take-Home Naloxone Pilot

What form does naloxone come in?

Naloxone is available as ampoules or a pre-filled syringe Prenoxad™ for intra-muscular injection, or Nyxoid nasal spray®.

Where can I access FREE naloxone?

Under the PBS Subsidised Take-Home Naloxone Pilot, from 1 December 2019 to 28 February 2021, naloxone can be accessed for free from the organisations below. However, they may not have the same forms of naloxone on site, so it is best to check with them first.

- Hepatitis WA, Northbridge: phone (08) 9227 9800
- Peer Based Harm Reduction WA, Perth: phone (08) 9325 8387, and Bunbury: phone (08) 9791 6699
- St Patrick's Community Support Crossroads Alcohol and Drug (AOD) Outreach Team, Fremantle (includes roaming Fremantle Parks, Wellington Square Park Perth and The RISE Maylands): phone (08) 9430 4159
- WA AIDS Council, mobile van and fixed sites in West Perth and Fremantle: phone 0417 093 537
- Community Alcohol and Drug Services in the Metropolitan Area (you must be a client of the service)

All these services provide **FREE** education on how to recognise and respond to opioid overdose.

Take-home naloxone is also available free-of-charge from a range of other organisations, including some pharmacies.

A comprehensive list of sites in addition to the ones above is available here:

www.mhc.wa.gov.au/getting-help/prevent_overdose

How do I use naloxone?

For information on how to administer naloxone, read the instructions provided with your naloxone product.

If you think someone has overdosed, call an ambulance - Triple Zero (000) and follow first aid steps (DRSABNCD) to respond to an overdose.¹

First Aid response - DRSABNCD

D

D = DANGER

Check for **DANGER**, carefully clear away any uncapped needles or other sharp objects



R

R = RESPONSE

Check for **RESPONSE**, call their name, squeeze their shoulders or ask them to open eyes



S

S = SEND FOR HELP

Call an ambulance 000 (Triple Zero)



A

A = AIRWAY

Open mouth, check for foreign material. If airway is blocked, put into the recovery position, **CLEAR** the airway



B

B = BREATHING

OPEN the airway, tilt the head back to maintain an open airway. Check for **BREATHING, LOOK, LISTEN** and **FEEL** for 2 normal breaths in 10 seconds



NO = Give 2 rescue breaths

YES

N

N = NALOXONE

Give **NALOXONE** as per device instructions (note the time and dose)

Put in recovery position and monitor breathing



C

C = CPR

No **Naloxone** or **Response**
Start **CPR** 30 compressions: 2 breaths



D

D = DEFIBRILLATOR

Turn on and follow the prompts

Dial 000

(TRIPLE ZERO)

It's really important to call an ambulance even if someone is treated with naloxone. This is because naloxone only lasts about 30 to 90 minutes and the person can overdose again once the naloxone wears off.

When you call an ambulance, tell the operator if you have naloxone, so they can provide you with support to administer naloxone.

Where can I get Alcohol and Drug Support/Information?

The Alcohol and Drug Support Line is a confidential, 24-hour, 7 days a week, non-judgemental telephone counselling, information and referral service for anyone seeking help for their own or another person's alcohol or drug use.

Phone (08) 9442 5000 (metro)
Phone 1800 198 024 (country callers)
Email alcoholdrugsupport@mhc.wa.gov.au
Website alcoholdrugsupport.mhc.wa.gov.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Mental Health Commission