



Atlanta, Georgia

ASSESSING AN OVERDOSE & ADMINISTERING NARCAN NASAL SPRAY

If you see a person who you suspect is overdosing (lips and nailbeds blue, face pale, ashen, or bluish purple, pupils pinpoint, slow or no pulse, gasping, snoring, gurgling, shallow slow breathing or no breathing, unresponsive, unconscious, awake but unable to talk):

1. CHECK FOR UNRESPONSIVENESS:

Shake their shoulder

Shout their name or "Wake Up! Are you OK?"

Do a **HARD** sternal rub up and down their breastbone with your knuckles

2. If they do not respond, lie them on their back on a **HARD** surface like the ground or floor. **NEVER** leave a person overdosing on a soft surface like a bed or couch. Later you may have to give CPR chest compressions, and they do not work on a soft surface.
3. Tilt their head back to open their airway.
4. Open their mouth and if foreign objects (pills, syringe cap, cheeked fentanyl patches) are seen, cover your hand if possible and remove the objects.
5. Open the blister pack of Narcan Nasal Spray. **IT IS READY TO USE.** Do not "test" it; there is only 1 dose per unit, and it does not have a cap.
6. Place the nozzle up into the victim's nostril as far as you can. Depress the plunger with your thumb. Be **SURE** to keep the victim's head tilted back so the medication will not run out of the nose. It works by being absorbed by the blood vessels in the nasal tissue.
7. Call 911. Put phone on speaker. **Say that you are with an UNRESPONSIVE person, your location, and that you administered Narcan Nasal Spray. Don't say "overdose" or they will send law enforcement instead of EMS.**
8. Follow the 911 operator's instructions regarding rescue breathing and/or chest compressions.
9. If the victim **DOES NOT** become responsive (color and breathing are not improving, victim is not talking, etc) by 2 minutes after your first dose, use a new Narcan Nasal Spray unit to give a dose in the other nostril. You can give additional doses every 2 minutes, alternating nostrils, for as many doses as you have until the victim becomes responsive or EMS arrives to take over resuscitation efforts.
10. If the victim **IS** improving and becoming responsive, turn them on the **LEFT** side in a recovery position and monitor. Overdose victims can slip back into an overdose 30-90 minutes after being reversed. Encourage them to accept EMS transport to the hospital. If they refuse, please stay with them for 6-8 hours or more if possible because you may need to administer additional doses of Narcan.