

Narcan at UWRF

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Naloxone (Narcan®)

What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can quickly reverse an opioid overdose by blocking the effects of opioids, including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications. It can restore normal breathing to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped because of an opioid overdose. Narcan is a brand name for generic naloxone.



Can I get naloxone on campus?

Yes. Nalox-ZONE boxes are installed in multiple locations on the UWRF campus. Each Nalox-ZONE box contains 2 doses of Narcan nasal spray, a breathing barrier (if rescue breaths are needed), instructions on how to administer Narcan nasal spray, and recovery-based resources. No one who accesses the Nalox-ZONE boxes is identified. The Nalox-ZONE boxes are stocked in a timely manner through UWRF's partnership with Wisconsin Voices for Recovery.

Where are Nalox-ZONE boxes located at UWRF? Nalox-ZONE boxes are located in the following places:

- 11 for Res Hall (1 in each by AED on 1st floor)
- 1 in the Library (Lower Level Lobby)
- 3 in the Falcon Center (one on either side of the Falcon Center and one back by the locker rooms)
- 2 in the UC (Lower Level by men's bathroom, Second Level top of Heritage Hall stairs)

Why is naloxone being made available at UWRF?

Opioids continue to be the main cause of drug overdose deaths in the United States, including Wisconsin.

The [Wisconsin Department of Health Services Opioids Data Dashboards](#) show the number of reported suspected opioid overdoses has been increasing in Wisconsin. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is the primary driver in the alarming increase overdose deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most recent cases of fentanyl-related overdose are linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl, which is distributed through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. Fentanyl is being found in all types of drugs including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs. It is being pressed into illicit pills that are made to resemble prescription pills. Many people may be unaware they are using a substance mixed with fentanyl. Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous – a tiny amount of fentanyl the size of 2 grains of salt can cause death.



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Is naloxone safe?

Yes, naloxone is safe. Some people might experience withdrawal symptoms after receiving naloxone, which is unpleasant but not fatal.

How do you use naloxone?

If you think someone is overdosing, immediately call 911. Give naloxone according to the instructions on the package. Stay with the person until emergency help arrives.

Do I need training to give naloxone?

Narcan nasal spray is easy to use, and it comes with step-by-step instructions for how to administer. Please see this [video](#) for a 10-minute recorded training (please be aware that the method on campus is the 3rd one demonstrated, i.e. nasal), or go [here](#) and scroll down for a 2-minute animated training.

Should I give naloxone if I don't know what the person has used?

Naloxone won't harm someone if they're overdosing on drugs other than opioids, so it's best to use it if you think someone is overdosing.

Will Naloxone reverse side effects of any kind of overdose?

No. Naloxone can reverse only an overdose from opioids.

How long until naloxone works?

It takes 2-3 minutes for naloxone to work. If there is not a response after 2-3 minutes, a second dose of naloxone should be given. Rescue breathes can be administered in the time waiting for naloxone to take effect (in the case of absent breathing).

Would a person completely recover from an overdose after receiving naloxone? Stronger opioids like fentanyl might require multiple doses of naloxone. Also, naloxone works in the body for only 30 to 90 minutes, therefore it is possible for a person to still experience the effects of an overdose after naloxone wears off. For these reasons it is imperative to call 911 at the first possible sign of overdose.

Could I get in trouble for assisting someone who is overdosing?

Under the Wisconsin Good Samaritan Law, a person cannot be held civilly liable for a good faith effort to help in a life-threatening situation. State law also provides limited immunity from criminal prosecution for certain amounts of controlled substance possession and the possession of drug paraphernalia for a person who aids someone experiencing an overdose from a controlled substance.

Where can I find help for myself or someone else who is struggling with opioid or other drug use?

Resources for support and treatment are available and people can and do get better.

[Student Health & Counseling](#)

[Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline 211](#) Call or text 211

[SAMHSA's National Helpline 800-662-4357](#)