

## WHY IS MY LOVED ONE GETTING A NARCAN® KIT?

As part of an initiative by the Department of Correction, your loved one may be given a Narcan® kit as part of their discharge in an effort to prevent fatal overdoses in the community. Regardless if someone has issues with substance use or not, **ANYONE** can save a life with Narcan®. This is why it is important for all types of people including those who don't abuse substances, those in recovery and those actively using substance carry Narcan®. Your loved one could save a life.

### NARCAN® Myth vs. Fact

- **Myth: NARCAN® is difficult to get.**

**Fact:** Narcan® is now available in all 50 states without a prescription at a low cost. Check your local pharmacy.

- **Myth: The availability of NARCAN® encourages drug use.**

**Fact:** Reversing an opioid overdose using NARCAN® gives a person a second chance at life. Following a successful overdose reversal, a person can access additional treatment options that he or she may not have considered previously. The only thing NARCAN® enables is breathing.

- **Myth: Only people who use illicit drugs like heroin or fentanyl need to carry Narcan®.**

**Fact:** In 2022, over 130 million opioid prescriptions were dispensed to American patients. It is estimated that over 36 million US citizens over the age of 12 have abused prescription drugs at least once in their lifetime. Many who abuse opioids started with a legitimate prescription for pain medications or were given someone else's pain medication.

- **Myth: NARCAN® is another drug that can be abused or make you feel high**

**Fact:** NARCAN® is safe and effective and has no potential for abuse. In addition, NARCAN® cannot be taken before drug use to avoid an overdose. The only effect of NARCAN® is to reverse the effect of opioids. It cannot make you high. If you are not using opioids, an injection of NARCAN® would feel the same as an injection of water. NARCAN® has no potential for abuse or dependency.

- **Myth: NARCAN® is a self-administered treatment.**

**Fact:** During a drug overdose, an opioid user will not have the ability to administer NARCAN® for themselves. Fortunately, it is very easy for a friend or family member to administer the drug, either intra-nasally, by auto-injector (similar to an epinephrine auto-injector), or intra-muscular injection. In fact, it takes just a few minutes of training from a doctor or pharmacist to learn the steps.



For more information, please contact the DOC  
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