

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

NALOXONE (NARCAN)

Drug Classification: Narcotic (opioid) antagonist

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

This medication binds the “mu” opiate receptor and blocks the effect of narcotics. IV onset is 2 minutes and IM onset is slightly longer. The duration is often shorter than that of the overdosed opioid.

Indications

- Known narcotic overdose with respiratory depression.
- Diagnostic agent for suspected narcotic overdose with altered mental status.

Contraindications

- Allergy or known hypersensitivity to the medication

Cautions

- This medication may initiate withdrawal symptoms, miscarriage or premature labor in the chronic narcotic user.
- Very short half-life; monitor patient closely and prepare to re-dose if respiratory depression reoccurs.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administer 2 mg IN, repeat every 2-5 minutes as needed, to ensure adequate respirations without restoring full consciousness.¹ AND/OR <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. 0.5 mg increments IV/IO/IM, repeat every 2-5 minutes as needed, to ensure adequate respirations without restoring full consciousness.¹	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administer 0.01 mg/kg IN, repeated every 2-5 minutes as need to ensure adequate respirations without restoring full consciousness.¹ AND/OR <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Administer 0.01 mg/kg IV/IO/IM repeat every 2-5 minutes as needed, to ensure adequate respirations without restoring full consciousness.¹

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS

- Nausea, vomiting, sweating, tachycardia, hypertension, seizure, arrhythmias, pulmonary edema

NOTES

¹ In the field, this medication is used to restore respirations in the patient with apnea or significant

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hypoventilation to the point that intubation will not be necessary. Avoid full narcotic reversal which may necessitate patient restraint and/or treatment of narcotic withdrawal.

REFERENCE GUIDELINE:

3D Altered Mental Status **3K Overdose**