



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of the Surgeon General

[This *Standing Protocol* (SOP) is attached to and accompanies the “**Recognition of Naloxone as a Life-Saving Medication, Standing Order for the Distribution or Dispensing of Naloxone, and Standing Protocol for the Administration of Naloxone**” issued by the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of the Surgeon General on April 1, 2025.]

Purpose of Naloxone: Naloxone is a medication used for the purpose of being administered to any child or adult in Louisiana who is experiencing opioid overdose/poisoning.

Training Requirements:

Training must include the following:

- How to prevent, recognize, and manage an opioid overdose
- Indications, contraindications, and precautions related to naloxone
- Naloxone management and administration techniques
- **Necessity of promptly calling 911 for further care of effected individual(s)**

For more information on training and other entity-specific details, see the text of the Louisiana codes referenced in “Legislative Support.”

Indications: Naloxone is indicated for the treatment of opioid overdose. An opioid overdose may also be referred to as acute opioid poisoning.

Opioid overdose is a life-threatening condition. An opioid overdose is when a person takes too much of an opioid, intentionally or unintentionally, that causes their body to not function properly. Signs can include slow or slurred speech, relaxed muscles, nodding off or appearing sleepy, unresponsive to stimuli, hard to detect or faint pulse, unconsciousness, skin changes, and respiratory changes.

Left untreated, an opioid overdose can ultimately lead to death via respiratory and circulatory collapse.

Dosing:

Intranasal naloxone is available in one dosing concentration:

- 4 mg, which is approved to be used on anyone, adult or child, experiencing an opioid overdose



nasal naloxone

Storage and Availability

Naloxone should be stored according to the manufacturer's instructions, which include being stored at room temperature and away from light, moisture, and heat. It should not be refrigerated or frozen.

Recognition of an opioid overdose may include the following:

- Slow or slurred speech
- Relaxed muscles
- Nodding off or appearing sleepy
- Unresponsive to stimuli such as yelling or sternum rubbing
- Hard to detect or faint pulse
- Unconsciousness

- Skin changes including:
 - Blueish skin tinge due to lack of oxygen
 - Pale, clammy skin
 - Darkened lips or fingertips
- Respiratory changes including:
 - Deep snoring
 - Wheezing or gurgling
 - Slow and irregular breathing
 - Stopped breathing

There is NO ABSOLUTE CONTRAINDICATION to administering naloxone to a child or adult experiencing an opioid overdose.

Calling 911 as soon as possible is always the correct action.

[Protocol for Administering Naloxone Nasal Spray](#)

Step 1: Confirm signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose.

Step 2: Call **911** and administer naloxone nasal spray as follows:

1. Hold the device with your thumb on the plunger at the bottom of the device and two fingers on either side of the nozzle.
2. Place the tip of the nozzle into one nostril and insert it until the bottom of the nose touches your finger.
3. Firmly and fully press the plunger to give the full dose.
4. If the person remains unresponsive for two minutes, repeat the process with a second naloxone nasal spray in the other nostril.
5. Await arrival from EMS.

For specifics on using the device, refer to manufacturer's instructions and to your entity's selected epinephrine training program.