

Naloxone

Classification

Narcotic antagonist

Indications

■ FR: Reversal of respiratory depression caused by suspected narcotic intoxication

Contraindications

Allergy or known hypersensitivity to naloxone

Adult dosages

■ FR: Reversal of respiratory depression caused by suspected narcotic intoxication

- 0.4 mg IM every 3 minutes as required, to maximum of 3 total doses

■ EMR: Reversal of respiratory depression caused by suspected narcotic intoxication

- 0.4 mg IM every 3 minutes as required, to a maximum of 4 total doses
 - Second dose: 0.4 mg IM if required
 - Third dose: 0.8 mg IM if required
 - Fourth dose: 2 mg IM if required

■ PCP: Reversal of respiratory depression caused by suspected narcotic intoxication

- 0.4 mg IM/IV every 3 minutes as required, to a maximum of 3 total doses
 - Second dose: 0.4 mg IM/IV if required
 - Third dose: 0.8 mg IM/IV if required
 - Fourth dose: 2 mg IM/IV if required (IV preferred)

■ ACP: Reversal of respiratory depression caused by suspected narcotic intoxication

- As per PCP schedule
- May also consider, in order:
 1. 4 mg IV
 2. 10 mg IV [Requires ClinCall consultation -- 1-833-829-4099](#)

Titrate doses to improve spontaneous respiratory effort. It is not necessary to administer sufficient naloxone to completely reverse the opioid effects.

Pediatric Considerations And Dosing

Never administer naloxone to neonates.

[Follow weight-based dosing](#)

■ FR: Not authorized

■ EMR: Reversal of respiratory depression caused by suspected narcotic intoxication

- 0.1 mg/kg (to maximum of 2 mg per dose), repeated every 3 minutes, to maximum of 4 total doses
 - Higher dose for pediatric patients as they are unlikely to experience withdrawal

Mechanism Of Action

Competitively antagonizes opioids bound to receptors in the central nervous system.

Pharmacokinetics

- Onset: 1 minute (intravenous); 3-5 minutes (intramuscular)
- Peak: unknown
- Half-life: 1-3 hours
- Duration: 45 minutes

Adverse Effects

- Sudden reversal of narcotic intoxication may provoke combativeness
- May produce withdrawal signs and symptoms
- Hypotension or hypertension
- Nausea and vomiting, sweating, tachycardia

