

# Naloxone



A safe & effective medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose

## what is naloxone?

Naloxone is a safe and effective medication that quickly works in the body to reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone is available as an intramuscular (IM) injection or intranasal spray (commonly referred to by its brand name, **Narcan**).

## how does naloxone work?

Naloxone is an *opioid antagonist*; it **reverses** and **blocks** the effects of opioids by binding to opioid receptors in the brain. Within minutes of administering naloxone, an unconscious patient can become responsive again.

## always call 911 before using naloxone

Naloxone typically wears off after 30-90 minutes. It is possible for a person to slip back into an overdose after being revived with naloxone, so it's important to call 911 so that they can receive medical care.

## can anyone have naloxone?

Naloxone is a prescription medication, but Minnesota State Law allows any trained individual to carry and administer naloxone. Many organizations, including the Steve Rummler HOPE Network, offer training and naloxone kits for the public. SRHN's free online training can be completed in around 15 minutes.



**In Minnesota, Steve's Law (MN's Good Samaritan and Naloxone Law) provides limited protections to people who call 911 and/or administer naloxone in response to a suspected or known drug overdose.**

**Scan to find  
naloxone resources  
near you**



**OR VISIT [WWW.RUMMLERHOPE.ORG/OVERDOSE-PREVENTION](http://WWW.RUMMLERHOPE.ORG/OVERDOSE-PREVENTION)**



**Naloxone can act to reverse an opioid overdose in as little as 2-5 minutes.**

# The dangers of fentanyl

Understanding the risks of synthetic opioids

## what is a synthetic opioid?

Synthetic opioids are manufactured in laboratories and have a chemical structure similar to naturally derived opioids (like heroin). They are highly potent and can be fatal in very small amounts, making accidental overdose common.

## what is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent. In its prescription form it is prescribed for pain, often after surgery, but fentanyl is also manufactured and sold illegally.

## how are synthetic opioids used?

Illegal synthetic opioids are often used as cutting agents in other drugs (such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA), or pressed into pill form and sold as counterfeit painkillers.

## how can I be safe?

- **Be aware.** As synthetic opioids used to cut (or lace) other drugs, the risk of opioid overdose has increased for individuals who may not intend to use opioids.
- **Never use alone.** If you are planning to use and are by yourself, you can call (800) 484-3731 and someone will stay on the line with you and call EMS if you become unresponsive.
- **Carry naloxone.** Steve Rummler HOPE Network IM naloxone kits are each equipped with 3 doses of naloxone in case multiple doses are needed.



## fentanyl fast facts

The illegally sold fentanyl associated with recent spikes in fatal overdoses is most commonly sold as a powder, dropped onto blotter paper, put in eye droppers and nasal sprays, or made into counterfeit opioid pills. **Pictured left is a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl.**

*source: United States Drug Enforcement Administration*



Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid, often **80x more potent than morphine.**



Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths today.



**Because fentanyl is stronger than other opioids like morphine, it may require multiple doses of naloxone to revive someone from an overdose.**



**Healing Together**

Steve Rummler  
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Healing Together is a campaign by the Steve Rummler HOPE Network, in partnership with MN DHS.

Learn more at [www.rummlerhope.org/healing-together](http://www.rummlerhope.org/healing-together)