

NALOXONE (Narcan)

ACTION: Narcotic Antagonist

- Antagonizes effects of opiate narcotic agents by competing at the receptor site resulting in reversal of respiratory depression associated with opiate overdoses.

INDICATIONS:

- Altered Mental Status in the presence of suspected narcotic overdose, or coma of unknown etiology.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Patients with hypersensitivity to the drug.
- Neonate in the setting of opiate dependence.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Rapid administration can cause projectile vomiting.
- May precipitate withdrawal in chronic narcotic users.
- Patients may become agitated or violent after drug is administered.

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

- ⇒ **IVP/IM/IO:** 0.4 mg, may repeat in 5min for continued respiratory depression up to 2mg.
- ⇒ **Intranasal:** 2 mg via mucosal atomizer device (MAD).

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

- ⇒ DO NOT GIVE to NEONATES
- ⇒ **Less than 20 kg:** 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM/IO.
- ⇒ **Greater than 20 kg:** 2 mg IN via MAD or IVP/ IM/ IO.

NOTES:

- Doses of Naloxone smaller than 2 mg may be given if it is suspected that the patient may have taken a combination of heroin and cocaine (“speedball”).
- Because Naloxone is a short-acting narcotic antagonist, repeat doses may have to be given if the patient’s LOC and respiratory status start to diminish again.
- Higher doses of Naloxone may be indicated for some opiate overdoses (Buprenorphine, Suboxone, and Darvocet).