

OVERDOSE PREVENTION

If you know someone who is at risk for overdosing from opioids, here is a resource for you.

FAST FACTS



Research shows that people who have had at least one overdose are more likely to have another.¹



Patients are dealing with the emotional consequences of overdosing, including embarrassment, guilt, anger, and gratitude, all accompanied by the discomfort of opioid withdrawal.²

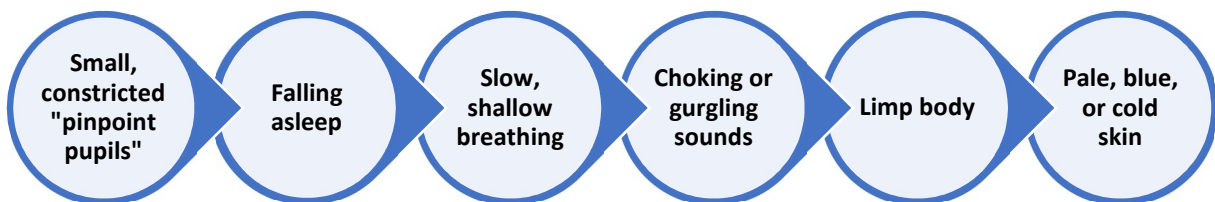


Opioid overdoses are almost always an accident. Moreover, the underlying problem that led to opioid use still exists and continues to require attention.²



Family members often feel judged because they could not prevent the overdose.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE



WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING



Call 911 immediately



Administer naloxone



Try to keep the person awake and breathing



Lay the person on their side to prevent choking



Stay with him or her until emergency workers arrive

NALOXONE

Naloxone is a life-saving medicine that can reverse overdoses. The most common type of naloxone is administered by **spraying it into the victim's nose**. In Pennsylvania, naloxone is available from any pharmacy without a prescription. Naloxone's effects are **temporary**. Once you have administered the naloxone, it is crucial to get the victim to the emergency department as soon as possible for further treatment. Otherwise, they may start to overdose again.³

GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

"**Good Samaritan**" laws offer legal protection to those who seek medical attention for or administer naloxone to someone having an overdose and who consequently may be at risk of arrest for drug-related crimes. These laws aim to reduce fatal overdoses by encouraging people to call 911 if they experience or witness a drug overdose without fear of being arrested.⁴

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 18-4742PT5. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2018.

² www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/patients/Preventing-an-Opioid-Overdose-Tip-Card-a.pdf

³ www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Opioids/General%20Public%20Standing%20Order.pdf

⁴ www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=42&div=0&chpt=83&sctn=32&subscn=0