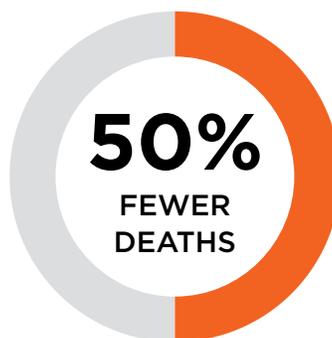


# MAKING OPIOID USE SAFER FOR OLDER ADULTS

## Provider's guide to co-prescribing naloxone

Thank you for sharing our commitment to caring for today's older adults. Part of our commitment is to protect older patients from opioid addiction, overdose and death. So it's important to learn about co-prescribing naloxone right now. Naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist that quickly reverses the effects of opioids - and it's saving lives.



Studies show co-prescribing naloxone results in 50% fewer opioid deaths and fewer ER visits.<sup>1</sup>

### Why naloxone now?

- › Opioid overdose is a leading cause of accidental death in the United States.<sup>2</sup>
- › Today's Medicare population has among the highest rate of opioid use disorder.<sup>2</sup>
- › Most opioid-related deaths in the United States happen at home.<sup>3</sup>

### When to consider prescribing naloxone:<sup>4</sup>

- › Cumulative opioid dosage of > 50 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day
- › Also prescribed benzodiazepines (regardless of opioid dosage) or other CNS depressants
- › Respiratory conditions such as asthma, COPD or sleep apnea
- › Behavioral health conditions
- › History of substance use disorders or report excessive alcohol use
- › History of overdose
- › Receiving treatment for opioid use disorder

### What patients should know about naloxone:

- › Patient's family and friends should know how to use it - and where it's stored.
- › Naloxone only works on someone who has taken opioids. It will not cause any harm if given to someone who may not have overdosed.
- › Store naloxone at room temperature. Refill or replace prescription if expired or damaged.
- › Have two doses available. The effects of naloxone wear off quickly. Slow or stopped breathing may return.
- › Advise family, friends and caregivers to call 911 immediately before giving naloxone. Seek medical attention even if initial dose of naloxone is effective.
- › Symptoms of acute opioid withdrawal may occur after administration. Do not take more opioids after using naloxone, even if you are not feeling well.

## Naloxone product comparison<sup>5</sup> and prescribing information

Type of product and strength	Cigna Medicare Part D formulary	Rx and quantity	Sig (for suspected overdose)
Injectable (and intranasal) generic naloxone prefilled syringe, 2 mg/mL	Generic tiers	#2 2 mL Luer-Jet™ Luer-Lock needleless syringe plus #2 mucosal atomizer devices (MAD-300)	Spray 1 mL (1/2 of syringe) into each nostril. Repeat after 2–3 minutes if no or minimal response.
Intranasal branded product (Narcan®), 4 mg/0.1 mL	Preferred brand tiers	#1 two-pack of two 4 mg/0.1 mL intranasal devices	Spray 0.1 mL into one nostril. Repeat with second device into other nostril after 2–3 minutes if no or minimal response.
Injectable generic, 0.4 mg/mL and 4mg/10 mL	Generic tiers	#2 single-use 1 mL vials plus #2 3 mL syringe with 23–25 gauge 1–1.5 inch IM needles; or #1 10 mL multidose vial PLUS #2 3 mL syringe with 23–25 gauge 1–1.5 inch IM needle	Inject 1 mL into shoulder or thigh. Repeat after 2–3 minutes if no or minimal response.
Auto-injector branded (Evzio®), 2 mg/0.4 mL	Non-formulary	#1 two-pack of two 2 mg/0.4 mL prefilled autoinjector devices	Inject into outer thigh as directed by English voice-prompt system. Place black side firmly on outer thigh and depress and hold for 5 seconds. Repeat with second device in 2–3 minutes if no or minimal response.



### LEARN MORE ABOUT NALOXONE

[www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids)

[www.prescribetoprevent.org](http://www.prescribetoprevent.org)

Together, all the way.®



<sup>1</sup>Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2020 Medicare Advantage Capitation Rates and Medicare Advantage and Part D Payment Policies and Final Call Letter. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvgtgSpecRateStats/Downloads/Announcement2020.pdf>. Published April 1, 2019. Accessed November 7, 2019.

<sup>2</sup>CMS Opioid Misuse Strategy. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/Partnerships/Downloads/CMS-Opioid-Misuse-Strategy-2016.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup>Surgeon General Releases Advisory on Naloxone, an Opioid Overdose-Reversing Drug. Accessed November 7, 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2018/04/05/surgeon-general-releases-advisory-on-naloxone-an-opioid-overdose-reversing-drug.html>. Published April 5, 2018.

<sup>4</sup>Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016. MMWR Recomm Rep 2016;65 (No. RR-1):1–49.

<sup>5</sup>Naloxone Product Comparison. Prescribe to Prevent website. [https://prescribetoprevent.org/wp2015/wp-content/uploads/Naloxone-product-chart.17\\_04\\_14.pdf](https://prescribetoprevent.org/wp2015/wp-content/uploads/Naloxone-product-chart.17_04_14.pdf). Accessed November 7, 2019.