





First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

INTRAMUSCULAR AND NASAL NALOXONE COMPARISON

- ✓ An emergency treatment to temporarily reverse overdose caused by opioids.
- ✓ Recommended as a lifesaving option even if the drug causing overdose is not known.
- ✗ Does not work in overdose caused by non-opioid drugs like etizolam, clonazepam, alprazolam, lorazepam, alcohol etc.
- ✗ Not a substitute for emergency medical care. Call emergency response services in your area for every known or suspected overdose.

ROUTE	ONSET	DURATION ¹	ABSORPTION	ADMIN.	STORAGE ²	NOTES	KIT CONTENTS
Intramuscular naloxone injection (0.4 mg/ml) 	Less than 5 minutes (usually 2-3 minutes)	30-90 minutes Depends on various factors such as strength and quantity of opioid causing overdose	Consistent More easily absorbed into the bloodstream	Care provider may not be comfortable with drawing up or giving an injection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at controlled room temperature (15°C to 30°C or 59°F to 86°F). Store in a dry and dark place. Protect from light • Naloxone remains effective in temperatures as low as -20°C (-4°F) for up to 2 weeks, or to spikes as high as 40°C (104°F) as long as it does not exceed 24 hours • Naloxone and Temperature Information Sheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less likelihood of precipitated withdrawal³ • More effective for reversing muscle stiffness caused by fentanyl (related to the rate of ingestion and higher doses of fentanyl) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Black case • 1 x Pair of non-latex gloves • 1 x CPR face shield with one-way valve • SAVE ME instructions • 3 x amber vials of naloxone 0.4 mg / mL, 1 mL ampoules capped with plastic ampoule breakers • 1 x amber medication vial with label • 3 x Plastic ampoule breakers • 3 x Alcohol swabs • 3 x Vanish Point® 3 mL syringe
Intranasal naloxone spray (4mg/0.1ml) 	8-13 minutes	125 minutes	May be inconsistent Depends on intranasal substance use or fractures which may have damaged nasal passages	Easy to administer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at controlled room temperature between 15°C to 25°C • May be stored temporarily for short periods in temperature spikes up to 40°C • Exposure to extreme temperatures may reduce effectiveness • Avoid freezing; if frozen, may thaw at room temperature and still use if no other option is available • Store in a dry and dark place. Protect from light 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher likelihood of precipitated withdrawal³ • Less effective for reversing muscle stiffness caused by fentanyl • Coughing and sneezing may occur. Take COVID-19 precautions to administer • Effects of 1 spray are comparable to 5 naloxone injections • Nasal naloxone may not work in all individuals. Encourage carrying kits of injectable naloxone in addition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Black case • 1 x Pair of non-latex gloves • 1 x CPR face shield with one-way valve • SAVE ME instructions • 2 x Naloxone 4mg/0.1ml sprays

- 1** Repeated doses are often required because opioids have longer duration of effect than naloxone. Monitor for rebound overdose as naloxone may wear off faster than the opioid
- 2** Naloxone kits must be replaced if they are past the expiry date and/or have been known to be outside of the recommended storage temperatures. While the effectiveness of naloxone may be reduced after its expiry or exposure outside storage temperatures, it will still have an effect. It should be administered if no other options are available
- 3** Precipitated withdrawal happens when overdose is reversed too quickly with naloxone. This results in opioid withdrawal symptoms or “dope sickness” which may cause cravings and more opioid use