



Naloxone FAQ & Resource Guide

Substance Misuse Prevention: Opioids

In accordance with our Risk Management Philosophy, Delta Gamma seeks to educate collegians on making empowered choices through new health and well-being initiatives to promote a Culture of Care.

WHAT IS AN OPIOID?

Opioids are a class of natural, semi-synthetic and synthetic drugs. The use of opioids, either by themselves or in combination with other drugs, is a major driver of the drug overdose crisis in the U.S. and Canada. Many overdose deaths in recent years involved illicitly manufactured fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids. These may be added to other drugs, like cocaine or Adderall, without the user knowing it. Opioids can also interact with prescription medications causing additional health risks to users.

WHAT IS NALOXONE?

Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. It attaches to opioid receptors and reverses and blocks the effects of other opioids. Naloxone is a safe medicine. It only reverses overdoses in people with opioids in their systems. It is a valuable and lifesaving tool in the instance of an overdose.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE HAS OVERDOSED?

Someone who has overdosed will exhibit any of the following or a combination of the following symptoms: unconsciousness, very small pupils, slow or shallow breathing, vomiting, inability to speak, faint heartbeat, pale skin, limp arms or legs, purple lips or fingernails.

HOW AND WHEN SHOULD NALOXONE BE ADMINISTERED?

Naloxone comes in two FDA-approved forms: injectable and prepackaged nasal spray. No matter what dosage form you use, it's important to receive training on how and when to use naloxone. Naloxone should be given to any person who shows signs of an opioid overdose or when an overdose is suspected.

HOW CAN I FIND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION?

Local community-based programs, the local public health department, emergency services (police, fire, etc.), and your campus health services or prevention offices could offer training opportunities for Naloxone administration. If you are interested in hosting a Naloxone training for your chapter, it is recommended that you discuss potential campus opportunities or resources with your campus Fraternity/Sorority advisor or student life staff. Individuals can also complete online training opportunities at a small cost with organizations such as the [American Red Cross](#).

WHO CAN ADMINISTER NALOXONE TO SOMEONE WHO HAS OVERDOSED?

Anyone can administer Naloxone, however, proper training is recommended. People should still call 911 immediately in the event of an overdose. Naloxone can be kept in a public space of a chapter facility as a resource. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) says that carrying Naloxone is no different than carrying an EpiPen for someone with allergies. It simply provides an extra layer of protection for those at a higher risk for overdose

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN ADMINISTERING NALOXONE?

Naloxone works to reverse opioid overdose in the body for only 30 to 90 minutes, but many opioids remain in the body longer than that. Because of this, it is possible for a person to still experience the effects of an overdose after a dose of Naloxone wears off. Also, some opioids are stronger and might require multiple doses of Naloxone. The most important first step to take is to call 911 so the individual can receive immediate medical attention

IS THERE LEGAL LIABILITY FOR ADMINISTERING NALOXONE?

Those who administer Naloxone are largely immune from criminal liability. 48 states and the District of Columbia have enacted both Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access laws. The two states that don't have Good Samaritan laws (Wyoming and Kansas) for drug overdoses did enact Naloxone Access laws, so legally we're covered. For our Canadian chapters, the Canadian federal government has enacted the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act (GSDOA) with the same protections for those assisting an individual in an overdose situation.

HOW DO I ACCESS NALOXONE?

Many pharmacies carry naloxone. In some states, you can get Naloxone from a pharmacist even if your doctor did not write you a prescription. It is also possible to get Naloxone from community-based distribution programs, local public health groups, or local health departments, free of charge. Your campus may also offer or distribute Naloxone to student groups or chapter facilities as a resource. Cost can also vary based on where and how you acquire Naloxone, and what type you are looking to purchase.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IN THE CASE OF AN OVERDOSE AT A DELTA GAMMA EVENT OR PROPERTY?

The first step is to call 911 to get the appropriate emergency services to assist the person experiencing an overdose. It is important to share the specific details of the crisis event, such as the name of the individual who experienced the overdose, the name(s) of the members who assisted and the outcome of the event with crisis@deltagamma.org, your Regional Team and Collegiate Success Team representative.

Delta Gamma's Medical Amnesty Policy addresses the situations in which a member or new member can seek medical assistance for other members, new members or guests in an alcohol or drug-related emergency without fear of disciplinary action from the Fraternity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SAMHSA: [Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit](#)

GetNaloxoneNow: [Save a Life](#)

SAFE Project: [State Naloxone Access Rules and Resources](#)

Government of Canada: [Naloxone](#)