



ADULT Medication Monograph

# NALOXONE

## (Parenteral and Oral / Sublingual)




This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

<b>Class</b>	Opioid Receptor Antagonist
<b>Presentation</b>	<p><b>Ampoule:</b> 400microgram/mL</p> <p><b><u>Combination Products:</u></b></p> <p><a href="#">Oxycodone</a>/Naloxone Modified Release Tablets (<i>Targin®</i>): 2.5/1.25mg, 5/2.5mg, 10/5mg, 20/10mg, 40/20mg</p> <p><a href="#">Buprenorphine</a>/Naloxone sublingual films (<i>Suboxone®</i>): 2mg/500microg</p> <p><b>Nasal Spray:</b> for information on the take-home pilot program see <a href="#">Naloxone Structured Administration and Supply Arrangements</a></p>
<b>Storage</b>	<p>Store at room temperature, below 25°C</p> <p>Protect from light.</p> <p>Reconstituted infusion solutions must be used within 24 hours.</p>
<b>Dose</b>	<p><b><u>Reversal of opioid toxicity</u></b></p> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocol</a> and <a href="#">Epidural Complications</a> and <a href="#">Treatment of Severe Respiratory Depression</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Relief of intrathecal opioid induced itch</u></b></p> <p><b>Intravenous:</b></p> <p>50 – 150 microgram, hourly when necessary.</p> <p><b><u>CPOP</u></b></p> <p><b>Sublingual:</b></p> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Community Programme for Opioid Pharmacotherapy patients in the hospital setting</a></p>

<b>Administration</b>	<p>Refer to <b>KEMH Clinical Guidelines</b> (links below)</p> <p><b><u>IV injection:</u></b> <i>Preferred route</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Option A</b></p> <p><b>Administration:</b> Inject undiluted at 2 to 3 minute intervals. See monitoring.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Option B (for small doses)</b></p> <p><b>Dilution:</b> Dilute 400microg (one ampoule) to 8mL with Water for Injections of Sodium Chloride 0.9%. Concentration is 50microg/mL</p> <p><b>Administration:</b> Inject 50–200 microgram every 2 to 3 minutes to avoid acute withdrawal.</p> <p><b><u>IV infusion:</u></b></p> <p><b>Dilution:</b> Dilute 2 mg (5 ampoules) in 500 mL of Sodium Chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%. Concentration is 4 microgram/mL</p> <p><b>Administration:</b> Give as a continuous infusion.</p> <p>The usual hourly rate of infusion is half to two-thirds of the total effective bolus dose, adjust according to clinical effect. Gradually reduce the dose when stopping the infusion.</p> <p><b><u>IM injection:</u></b></p> <p>Suitable if the IV route is not available. Inject into the upper arm or thigh. In an emergency, the injection can be given through clothing. Repeat the dose after 3 to 5 minutes if the person is still not breathing.</p> <p><b><u>SUBCUT injection:</u></b></p> <p>Suitable if the IV route is not available.</p>
<b>Pregnancy</b>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Trimester: Monitoring required</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester: Monitoring required</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester: Monitoring required</p> <p>There are limited published reports describing the use of naloxone in pregnancy, other than during labour. If acute opioid toxicity is evident in the pregnant woman, naloxone therapy should not be withheld, but monitoring of infant respiratory and heart rate is recommended.</p> <p>Contact the <a href="#">Obstetrics Medicines Information Service</a> for more information.</p>
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	<p>Considered safe to use - monitor breastfed infants of opioid-dependent women for signs of withdrawal.</p>
<b>Monitoring</b>	<p>Sudden or complete reversal of opioid overdose may cause agitated delirium in opioid-dependent patients and myocardial infarction in elderly</p>

	<p>patients or those with coronary artery disease. To avoid acute withdrawal titrate doses of 50–200 microgram every 2 to 3 minutes.</p> <p>Naloxone has a short duration of action (half-life in adults is approximately 1 hour). A continuous infusion may be required to reverse the effect of a long-acting opioid such as methadone or sustained-release forms of morphine or oxycodone. Monitor level of sedation and respiratory function</p>
<p><b>Clinical Guidelines and Policies</b></p>	<p><b>WNHS Policies:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols</a></p> <p><a href="#">Community Programme for Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP) Management in Hospital</a></p> <p><a href="#">Labour and Post-Operative Analgesia</a></p> <p><a href="#">Labour and Postoperative Analgesia (including epidural management)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Palliative Care</a></p> <p><a href="#">Post-Operative: Analgesia</a></p> <p><a href="#">Resuscitation Medications and Fluids</a></p> <p><b>KEMH Pharmacy Medication Guidelines:</b></p> <p>For information on the KEMH take-home Naloxone program, see <a href="#">Naloxone Structured Administration and Supply Arrangements</a></p>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Naloxone. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2017 [cited 2020 Mar 29]. Available from: <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</a></p> <p>MIMS Australia. DBL Naloxone Hydrochloride Injection (Solution for injection). In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2016 [cited 2020 Mar 30]. Available from: <a href="https://www.mimsonline.com.au">https://www.mimsonline.com.au</a></p> <p>MIMS Australia. Suboxone 2mg/0.5mg Film. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2016 [cited 2020 Mar 23]. Available from: <a href="https://www.mimsonline.com.au">https://www.mimsonline.com.au</a></p> <p>Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Naloxone. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2017 [cited 2020 Mar 30]. Available from: <a href="http://aidh.hcn.com.au">http://aidh.hcn.com.au</a></p> <p>The Royal Women's Hospital. Naloxone. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2017 [cited 2020 Mar 27]. Available from: <a href="https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/">https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/</a></p>

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<p><b>Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.</b></p> <p><b>Access the current version from the WNHS website.</b></p> <p><b>For any enquiries relating to this guideline, please email <a href="mailto:KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au">KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au</a></b></p>			

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