

# **BLS Drug Formulary**

## **NALOXONE (Narcan®)**

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### **Class**

Synthetic opioid antagonist

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### **Description**

Naloxone is a competitive narcotic antagonist used in the management and reversal of overdoses caused by narcotics and synthetic narcotic agents. Unlike other narcotic antagonists, which do not completely inhibit the analgesic properties of opiates, naloxone antagonizes all actions of morphine.

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### **Onset & Duration**

Onset:            Within 2 min.  
Duration:        30-60 min.

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### **Indications**

1. For the complete or partial reversal of CNS and respiratory depression induced by opioids:
  - a) Narcotic agonist:
    - Morphine sulfate
    - Heroin
    - Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
    - Methadone
    - Meperidine (Demerol)
    - Paregoric
    - Fentanyl citrate (Sublimaze)
    - Oxycodone (Percodan)
    - Codeine
    - Propoxyphene (Darvon)
  - b) Narcotic agonist and antagonist
    - Butorphanol tartrate (Stadol)
    - Pentazocine (Talwin)
    - Nalbuphine (Nubain)
2. Decreased level of consciousness

## ***Naloxone continued...***

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### **Contraindications**

1. Hypersensitivity
  2. Use with caution in narcotic-dependent patients who may experience withdrawal syndrome (including neonates of narcotic-dependent mothers)
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### **Adverse Reactions**

1. Tachycardia
  2. Hypertension
  3. Hypotension
  4. Cardiac dysrhythmias
  5. Seizures
  6. Nausea and vomiting
  7. Diaphoresis
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### **How Supplied**

2mg/2ml, prefilled syringe without needle  
Mucosal Atomizer Device (MAD) – purchased separately

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### **Protocol – CFR and EMT**

M-2                      Altered Mental Status with Suspected Narcotic Overdose

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### **Special Considerations**

1. Pregnancy safety: Category B
1. May not reverse hypotension
2. Caution should be exercised when administering naloxone to narcotic addicts (may precipitate withdrawal with hypertension, tachycardia, and violent behavior)