

# Naloxone Keeps the Circle Strong

## Pharmacist Guide:

### Script for Starting the Naloxone Conversation

#### How to introduce naloxone:

- One risk with opioid medications is they can cause your breathing to slow or stop. Because you are taking [*medication name*], there is a risk that this could happen to you.
- Unfortunately, overdoses can happen to anyone, including children who may accidentally ingest them, so we like to make sure families have naloxone in their first aid kit.
- I'd like to talk with you about naloxone, a medicine given if you take more opioids than your body can handle.

#### How to describe what an overdose looks like and what to do:

- It's important to recognize the signs of an overdose, so you know how to help. People who are overdosing may be unresponsive, have pinpoint pupils, experience slow to no breathing, have blue lips or make choking noises.
- If any combination of these signs is occurring, call emergency services and give naloxone. Naloxone works if there are opioids in the person's system, but it also will NOT harm the person if there isn't. You can give the person naloxone even if you are unsure what's happening is an overdose.

#### How to explain why naloxone is important for your patient:

- Naloxone is a medication that can be given by anyone. It works by restoring normal breathing to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped due to opioid medications, non-prescription opioids or illicit drugs like heroin or fentanyl-mixed drugs.
- Naloxone is a nasal spray and starts to work immediately.
- Naloxone is safe and can be given again after a few minutes if the person is not waking up or returning to normal breathing. There is no maximum dose. Most importantly, it can save the person's life.

#### Remember:

Focus on your patient's wellbeing.  
Listen attentively.  
Make space for their questions and concerns.  
If possible, involve their loved ones.  
Avoid stigmatizing or shaming language.

#### Learn more

Scan this code for  
"Say this, not that."



**Start the conversation. Save a life.**  
**Naloxone is first aid.**