

Naloxone (Narcan®)

Indication: Antidote for narcotic agonists

Adult Dosage Range: 0.4-2 mg , may repeat at 2-3 minute intervals

Pediatric Dosage Range: Initial dose of 0.01mg/kg IV/IO, if no clinical improvement: administer 0.1mg/kg IV/IO. Maximum dose of 2mg

Time to onset: Within 2 minutes

Contraindications:

- Hypersensitivity to naloxone
- Caution in patient known to be narcotic dependent

How is it given?

- Nasal via Mucosal Atomization Device (MAD)
- Via Auto-Injector

What should be monitored?

- Blood pressure
- Respiratory rate
- Heart rate

Major Drug Interactions:

- Decreased effect of narcotic analgesia
- May precipitate acute narcotic withdrawal in patient who is narcotic dependent

What side effects/potential complications are expected?

- Rare, but sometimes seen side effects:
 - Hypertension
 - Hypotension
 - Tachycardia
 - Cardiac arrest
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Dyspnea
 - Pulmonary edema
 - Diaphoresis

Are there any special instructions?

- Effectiveness is due to narcotic reversal, not to an effect on opiate receptors. Therefore, adverse events occur secondary to reversal (withdrawal) of narcotic analgesia and sedation, which can cause severe reactions.