

# GETTING NALOXONE IN PHARMACIES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## QUICK FACTS

- Naloxone is a safe medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.
- Naloxone only works on **opioids** (such as heroin, fentanyl and prescription painkillers) but is **safe to use**, even if opioids aren't present.
- Anyone who needs naloxone can get it at participating pharmacies, without a prescription. This includes people at risk of overdosing and people who may witness someone else overdosing.

## HOW DO I GET NALOXONE AT A PHARMACY?

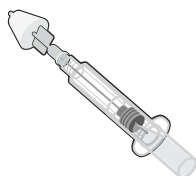
It's simple: walk into a participating pharmacy and ask for naloxone — you don't need a prescription. To find a participating pharmacy near you, go to [nyc.gov/health/map](https://nyc.gov/health/map).

## ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF NALOXONE?

There are four types of naloxone:



**Single-step  
Nasal Spray**



**Multi-step  
Nasal Spray**



**Single-step Intramuscular  
Auto-injector (Evzio)\***



**Multi-step  
Intramuscular Injection**

\*The **Evzio auto-injector** is available without a prescription at CVS, Duane Reade and Walgreens. **Evzio is available at additional pharmacies with a patient-specific prescription.**

## DO I NEED INSURANCE TO GET NALOXONE?

No. You can get naloxone with or without insurance. The cost of naloxone without prescription coverage is about \$45 for the multi-step intramuscular injection, \$85 for the multi-step nasal spray, \$150 for the single-step nasal spray and \$4,000 or more for the auto-injector. **Naloxone is also available for free at community programs throughout the city.** Visit [health.ny.gov/overdose](https://health.ny.gov/overdose) or call **311** to find a program.

## HOW MUCH WILL I PAY IF I HAVE INSURANCE?

Many insurance companies cover naloxone with little to no copay. If you do have a copay, ask your pharmacist about the Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program (N-CAP) which covers up to \$40 in naloxone copay costs. Check with your insurance to see if there are any additional costs or limits to getting naloxone. There is often an additional charge (usually \$5 or less) for the multi-step nasal spray — even if insurance covers the medicine. The pharmacist can help you choose the most affordable option.

## WILL I GET INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE NALOXONE?

Yes. The pharmacist should provide a short training and written instructions on when and how to use naloxone to respond to an opioid emergency or overdose. If your pharmacist does not provide you with this information, visit [nyc.gov/health](https://nyc.gov/health) and search **prevent overdose** to learn more. The pharmacist may also ask a few questions to make sure you understand how to use naloxone.

### WILL I GET NALOXONE IMMEDIATELY?

Some pharmacies will have the type of naloxone you want in stock while others may need to order it. If you cannot get naloxone right away, it will usually be available within a few days.

### IS IT LEGAL FOR ME TO CARRY AND USE NALOXONE?

Yes. New York State law allows anyone who has received training at a pharmacy or community program to carry and use naloxone. Additionally, the New York State 911 Good Samaritan Law provides some protection to anyone calling 911 to save a life, even if drugs are present at the scene of the overdose. For more information, visit [health.ny.gov](http://health.ny.gov) and search for **good samaritan law**.

### DO I HAVE TO SHOW MY ID TO GET NALOXONE?

No. Naloxone is not a controlled substance so ID is not required. The pharmacist may ask to see your ID for record-keeping purposes, but they will keep your name and information confidential. You will have to show your insurance card if you have insurance.

### IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?

No, but a pharmacist can refuse to give naloxone to someone under the age of 16.

### WHERE CAN I REFILL MY NALOXONE?

You can refill your naloxone at participating pharmacies. Refill naloxone if it has been used, lost, damaged or expired. The pharmacist may ask a few questions to help the New York City Health Department track naloxone use. The pharmacy and the Health Department will keep your personal information confidential.

### DOES NALOXONE EXPIRE?

Yes. The expiration date is marked on the naloxone. Remember to refill your naloxone before it expires.

## MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

#### Learn about naloxone:

- Visit [nyc.gov/health/naloxone](http://nyc.gov/health/naloxone).

#### Learn about overdose prevention:

- Visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search **prevent overdose**.

#### Find referrals to treatment or harm reduction services for opioid and other substance use disorders:

- NYC Well: Call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355), text WELL to 65173 or visit [nyc.gov/nycwell](http://nyc.gov/nycwell).
- New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Provider Directory: Visit [oasas.ny.gov/ProviderDirectory](http://oasas.ny.gov/ProviderDirectory).
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Buprenorphine Treatment Physician Locator: Visit [samhsa.gov](http://samhsa.gov) and search for buprenorphine treatment locator.
- ThriveNYC Services Finder: Visit [nyc.gov/thrivenyc](http://nyc.gov/thrivenyc).