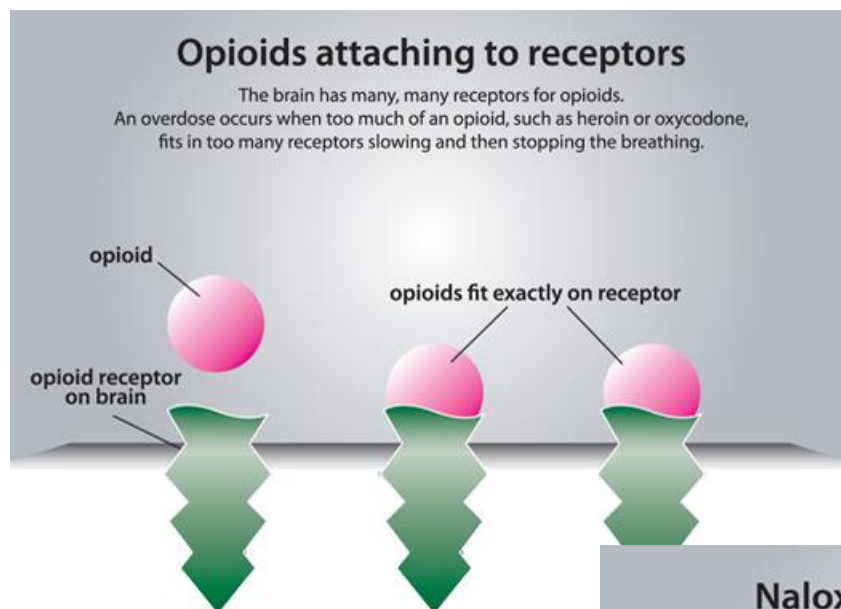


# What is Naloxone/Narcan?

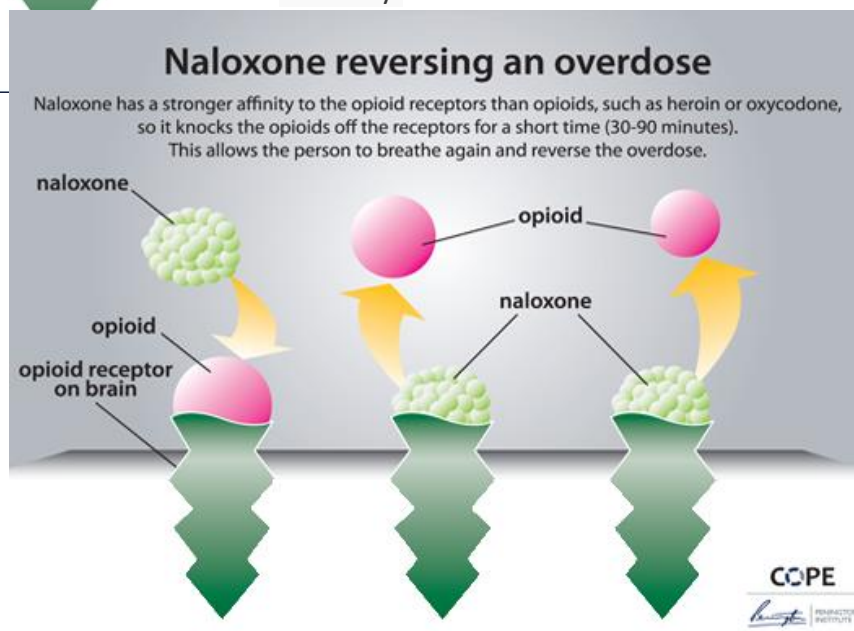


Naloxone (also known as Narcan® or Evzio™) is an “opioid antagonist” medication that is used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose:

When a person is overdosing on heroin or opioid medications, their central nervous system and respiratory system becomes depressed, which results in their breathing slowing down and possibly stopping. Naloxone temporarily blocks the life-threatening impact of opioid drugs, allowing an overdose victim to breathe normally.

Naloxone only works if a person has opioids in their system; the medication has no effect if opioids are absent.

Although traditionally administered by emergency response personnel, naloxone can be administered by minimally trained laypeople, which makes it ideal for treating overdose in people who have been prescribed opioid pain medication and in people who use heroin and other opioids. Naloxone has no potential for abuse. Naloxone is available as an auto injector or nasal spray.



Michigan law allows an opioid user and his/her family or close friends to obtain Naloxone by prescription and administer it if someone is overdosing.

Once administered, Naloxone begins to work within minutes to restore breathing. However, the effects of Naloxone wear off in 30-90 minutes. Many Naloxone rescue kits come with 2 auto injectors or 2 nasal sprays, allowing a second dose to be given, if needed. **Naloxone does not take the place of emergency medical care, even if the person’s breathing is restored and they wake up.** The overdose symptoms may return, based on the amount of opioids taken and the fact that Naloxone wears off quicker than heroin and prescription opioids. Following through with emergency medical care ensures that additional doses of Naloxone and other lifesaving procedures can be provided.

Source: [www.harmreduction.org](http://www.harmreduction.org), Images from: [www.copeaustralia.com](http://www.copeaustralia.com)