



**Are you prescribed opioids for pain management?  
Are you addicted to prescription opioids or heroin?  
Do you know someone that is?**

**What are opioids?**

Opioids include pain medicines such as Percocet, Vicodin, methadone, morphine, fentanyl and heroin. Prescription opioids are commonly used for the treatment of pain management. Opioids *can* be addictive and opioid use *can* lead to opioid use disorder. Opioid use disorder is a chronic medical condition characterized by compulsive opioid use, increased tolerance, dependence and the development of withdrawal syndrome when opioid use stops. Opioid use disorder is a brain disease that requires medical and behavioral treatment.

**What is an opioid overdose?**

When there is an excess amount of opioids in a person’s system, an individual will become unresponsive and his/her breathing will become shallow. This is called an opioid overdose. Without immediate medical attention, an overdose will result in the loss of life.

**What is Naloxone (also known as Narcan)?**

Fortunately, there is a medicine that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose and restores respiratory function to an opioid overdose victim. This medicine is called naloxone (also known as narcan). Naloxone is a very safe medicine that has been used by medical professionals for decades.

**Where can I get naloxone?**

**Project DAWN Programs**

MetroHealth’s Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) is Cuyahoga County’s opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) program. Project DAWN provides overdose prevention and response training to program participants in addition to free Project DAWN kits, which contain intranasal naloxone. Overdose prevention and response training includes risk factors for overdose, how to recognize an opioid overdose, and how to respond to an opioid overdose by calling 911, giving rescue breaths, and administering naloxone.

Project DAWN distributes *free* intranasal naloxone kits and conducts one-on-one and group training to program participants on a walk-in basis (no appointment necessary) at three community sites:

**Fridays 9a-12p**  
**Cuyahoga County Board of Health**  
**5550 Venture Dr. Parma, 44130**

**Tuesdays 12p-4p & Fridays 1p-5p**  
**Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland**  
**12201 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106**

**Thursdays 4p-8p**  
**Cleveland Department of Public Health**  
**McCafferty Health Center**  
**4242 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH 44113**

**Project DAWN:** 216-778-5677 - <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectDawnCuyahogaCounty/>  
**Discount Drug Mart:** <https://discount-drugmart.com/naloxone/>



## Pharmacies

In addition to Project DAWN, community members can access naloxone at their local **Discount Drug Mart or Walgreens or MetroHealth Outpatient Pharmacy**, *no prescription needed*. In the pharmacy setting, naloxone is not free, but is covered by most insurance plans. If a patient does not have insurance he/she will have to pay out of pocket. In order to obtain naloxone in the pharmacy setting, the patient must simply visit his/her local Discount Drug Mart, Walgreens or MetroHealth Pharmacy, bring his/her insurance and ID card, and request naloxone. The pharmacist will train the patient on how to respond to an overdose with naloxone.

To find your local Discount Drug Mart visit: <https://discount-drugmart.com/our-store/store-locator/>

To find your local Walgreens visit: <http://www.walgreens.com/storelocator/find.jsp>

To find your local MetroHealth pharmacy visit: <http://www.metrohealth.org/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy>

### Who is a good candidate for naloxone?

- Those who are at-risk for opioid overdose including individuals who are currently using opioids or have a history of opioid use or abuse.
- Individuals who may know someone at-risk of opioid overdose or who could potentially witness an overdose.

### What puts an individual at risk of opioid overdose?

Several risk factors make it more likely that someone may have an opioid overdose including:

1. Current or recent opioid poisoning or overdose
2. Maintenance opioid therapy for treatment of opioid dependence including Methadone, Suboxone or Naltrexone
3. Prescription opioid or heroin nonmedical use
4. Those who are prescribed high doses of opioids
5. Recent release from jail/prison or treatment/detox with a history of opioid use disorder
6. Any opioid use (prescribed or recreational) and
  - A. Concurrent Benzodiazepine use
  - B. Concurrent alcohol use
  - C. Liver, heart, kidney or breathing illness
7. For individuals who have opioid use disorder, risk of overdose increases when:
  - A. The individual has a lowered tolerance
  - B. The individual uses other drugs when using opioids
  - C. The individual has pre-existing health conditions such as liver, kidney heart of breathing problems
  - D. The individual uses alone
  - E. The individual uses heroin
    - a. In Ohio, heroin is often laced with fentanyl. Fentanyl is another type of opioid, which can be up to 50x stronger than heroin.

**Be prepared in case of an emergency. Get your naloxone today.**

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