



Naloxone is a medication designed to treat an opioid analgesic overdose in an emergency situation. During a recent continuing education webinar, our experts shared the following key takeaways on the medication's use and what to consider if it is prescribed for a claimant.

- 1 Follow the product instructions to properly administer naloxone. The medication is available as an injection and a nasal spray.
 - Evzio Auto-Injector – Two pack, 2 mg auto-injector (Auto-injector device guides the user through administration process step-by-step.) The Evzio Auto-Injector was previously available in a two pack, 0.4 mg/0.4 ml but according to the manufacturer, this dose will no longer be manufactured. The 0.4 mg auto-injectors remain safe and effective and can be used until expiration date.
 - Narcan Nasal Spray – 4 mg/0.1 ml (Claimant does not have to be awake to inhale this for effect, it will be absorbed through nasal membrane.) The FDA just approved a 2 mg dose of this medication. Its release date has not yet been published.
 - Naloxone solution for injection – Available in numerous strengths including 0.4 mg/ml and 1mg/ml
- 2 Investigate the reason and medical history of a claimant who is actively refilling naloxone. A refill due to medication expiration indicates the claimant has not yet used the medication. A refill due to the claimant's overdose situation should prompt further review of the prescriber's medication therapy plan and may initiate a clinical intervention.
- 3 Refer to the claimant's medical records for documentation addressing why naloxone was prescribed. If the claimant is an illicit drug user, as evidenced by either urine drug testing or the claimant's own admission, intervention beyond supplying naloxone may be necessary.
- 4 Reassess claimants who require repeated dose escalations and/or reach a daily opioid analgesic morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg. (Official Disability Guidelines recommendation)
- 5 Look for evidence of improved pain relief, functioning and/or return to work if a claimant is on long-term opioid analgesics. Assess the four A's [**analgesia** (decrease in pain level), **activities of daily living** (increase in ability to function), **adverse events** (non-existent or manageable side effects), **aberrant behavior** (no misuse/abuse of medication)].
- 6 Educate claimants and their caregivers to:
 - Understand and recognize the signs and symptoms of opioid analgesic overdose
 - Decreased breathing, blood pressure, heart rate, body temperature
 - Unresponsive (cannot be aroused)
 - Pinpoint (small) pupils
 - Blue/gray lips and nails
 - Be aware that the effects of the opioid analgesic medications may outlast that of the naloxone dose. This means that while the naloxone dose may work initially to help revive the claimant, once the naloxone wears off, the claimant could return to respiratory or central nervous system depression.
 - Seek medical attention if you suspect someone is experiencing an overdose or if you have administered naloxone to treat an overdose.

The following questions were asked by webinar attendees. Please send any additional questions on this topic to ceprogram@optum.com.

How long do the auto-injectors last (expiration date)?

The expiration date of each naloxone product, including the auto-injector, depends on when the product was manufactured. In general, most naloxone products expire within 12-18 months.

Can naloxone be obtained without a prescription? Is there a resource available to find a local pharmacy to obtain naloxone?

Naloxone can be obtained without a prescription in certain states, although some states require that the pharmacy has a collaborative agreement in place with a prescriber. Contact your state's Board of Pharmacy to determine which pharmacies dispense naloxone without a prescription.

What is the cost of naloxone and the auto-injector?

According to Redbook's average wholesale price (AWP) as of January 2017, the cost of naloxone is as follows:

NDC Number	Product Name	Strength	Package Size	Current AWP Price
60842-0030-01	Evzio® auto-injector	0.4 MG/0.4 ML†	2 (auto-injectors), 1 Trainer	\$4,500 (package price)
60842-0051-01	Evzio® auto-injector	2 MG/0.4 ML	2 (auto-injectors), 1 Trainer	\$4,920 (package price)
69547-0353-02	Narcan® Nasal Spray	4 MG/0.1 ML	2 (nasal sprays)	\$150 (package price)
Various	Naloxone HCL	1 MG/1 ML	2 ml – 25 ml	\$6.65 – 23.72 (unit price)*
Various	Naloxone HCL	0.4 MG/1 ML	2 ml – 25 ml	\$6.65 – 23.72 (unit price)*

*This price does not include the cost of other components required to assemble a naloxone kit; therefore, the cost is typically higher than that listed above and may be set according to the dispensing pharmacy

†According to the manufacturer, Evzio 0.4 mg will no longer be manufactured. In the meantime, Evzio 0.4 mg is still safe and effective and may continue to be used in the event of an overdose. Only Evzio 2 mg auto-injectors will be made going forward.

According to other sources, the naloxone kit for intramuscular injection and nasal administration (which includes the mucosal atomization device) typically costs about \$50 – \$100 for two doses.

What kind of training do you need to be able to administer naloxone?

Hands-on training is typically provided by the prescriber, community-based program, and/or pharmacy that dispenses the naloxone and varies based on the product being prescribed. Most training takes less than thirty minutes. A caregiver, close family member, or friend, in addition to the patient being prescribed naloxone, should be trained on how to administer this medication. There are also many local and nationwide organizations, such as Get Naloxone Now (www.getnaloxonenow.org), Prescribe to Prevent (www.prescribetoprevent.org), and Harm Reduction Coalition (www.harmreduction.org), that offer educational materials and/or training for free. In addition, the manufacturers of Narcan® Nasal Spray and Evzio® include instructions for use when the medications are dispensed and both have posted instructions and a video on their respective websites demonstrating how to use the device. Prescribe to Prevent has also posted several videos to assist with how to administer naloxone.