

**NALOXONE (nal-OX-ohn)**  
**Narcan**

**PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:**

-narcotic (opioid) antagonist

**THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:**

-narcotic antagonist

**INDICATIONS:**

- known or suspected narcotic-induced respiratory depression
  - morphine            -demerol            -heroin
  - dilaudid            -paregoric            -percodan
  - fentanyl            -methadone            -codeine
- synthetic analgesic overdose
  - nubain            -talwin
  - stadol            -darvon
- can be used to rule out narcotic overdose in coma of unknown origin

**MECHANISM OF ACTION:**

- blocks the effects of both natural and synthetic narcotics and may reverse respiratory depression
- combines competitively with opiate receptors and blocks or reverses the action of narcotic analgesics

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- hypersensitivity to drug

**PRECAUTIONS:**

- may induce withdrawal in individuals that are addicted to narcotics
- consider slow administration until an obvious improvement in respiratory status is observed
- can cause ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation in patients with pre-existing cardiac disease
- narcan has a shorter half-life than most narcotics, making repeat doses necessary in many cases

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

- nausea/vomiting with rapid administration
- hypotension
- ventricular dysrhythmias
- acute withdrawal syndrome

**DOSAGE:**

- 0.4 to 2.0 mg IV

**ROUTES:**

- IV, IM, SQ, ET

