NALOXONE FAQ

# What is Naloxone?

Naloxone is an antidote used to reverse the effects of opioid drugs like heroin, morphine and methadone if someone overdoses. Naloxone is not a cure but can help to keep a person alive until an ambulance arrives.

# Where can I get Naloxone?

Naloxone is a prescription medication. This means it needs to be prescribed by a Doctor. Naloxone will be prescribed to a person who is at risk of overdosing on opioids. If you are prescribed Naloxone, ask your Doctor for more than one and give it to a friend or family member who will be around when you are using.

# How can I learn how to use Naloxone?

If you are engaged with any support programs, ask your key worker. You can also ask your Doctor or go to drugs.ie/naloxone for more links and information.

# Can I use Naloxone that has been prescribed for me on someone else?

What you do with your medication is your responsibility. If you have Naloxone and have received training to recognise an opioid overdose, can demonstrate basic life support and know how to administer it then here is what the law says;

‘*There should be no exclusions from administering naloxone where the risk of opioid overdose is suspected as failure to administer naloxone may result in the death of an individual. Legislation is in place which allows intervention in an emergency situation, Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011, SI 449*

# Naloxone and it’s expiry date

If your Naloxone has expired take it back to where you got it and ask for a new one.

# Can I use Naloxone if it has expired?

If it is the only thing you have, use it. Naloxone will start to lose its effectiveness when it’s out of date. However, it may be strong enough to reverse an overdose if that is the only kit that is available. It cannot hurt, so use it and continue to perform rescue breathing and call for help and ambulance.

# Will we ever have nasal Naloxone?

Yes, we are awaiting authorisation on the European market and it is much more expensive.

Don’t try pouring naloxone into the victim’s nose or mouth: Trying to make someone who has overdosed and is unconscious swallow naloxone (or any liquid) can be dangerous, as it might go into their lungs. In any case, this won’t work because not enough naloxone will be absorbed.