

Prevention of Opioid/Heroin Overdose

Drug overdose is a significant problem in New York State. Recent data from New York City indicate that more than 900 fatalities resulted from accidental overdoses during 2004. Close to 70% of these deaths involved the use of opioids/heroin.

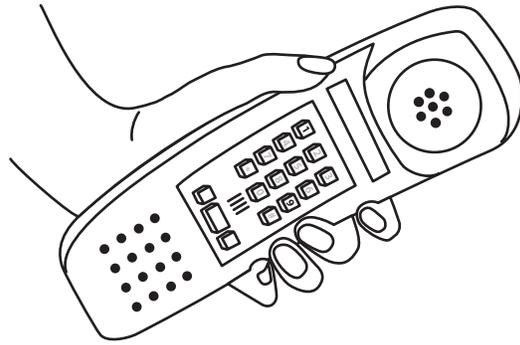
A new life-saving law took effect on April 1, 2006, making it legal in New York State for non-medical persons to administer Naloxone to another individual to prevent an opioid/heroin overdose from becoming fatal.

Naloxone (Narcan) is a prescription medicine that reverses an overdose by blocking heroin (or other opioids) in the brain for 30 to 90 minutes. Naloxone comes in pre-filled syringes and is administered by injection. It has been successfully prescribed and distributed to heroin users, their families and friends in several programs in the U.S., including Baltimore, Chicago, New Mexico and San Francisco. Hundreds of individuals participating in these programs have successfully reversed overdoses.

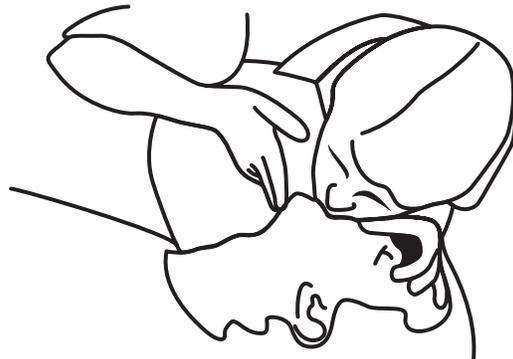
Programs must register with the New York State Department of Health to operate an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program. Eligible providers are licensed health care facilities, health care practitioners, drug treatment programs, not-for-profit community-based organizations and local health departments. These programs train individuals how to respond to suspected overdoses including the administration of Naloxone.

For more information on opioid/heroin overdose prevention, or to register as a NYS Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, please contact the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute at (212) 417-4770.

Step 1 Call 911



Step 2 Rescue Breathing



Step 3 Give Naloxone

