

Which naloxone should you distribute?



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

A guide for service providers

Use this tool to help people decide which type of naloxone is best for them. The best type of naloxone is one they are most likely and able to use.

1 Ask them: Can you open an ampoule and inject naloxone with training?

Some things that can make it difficult:

- A fear of needles
- A physical disability that makes it hard to use hands or see clearly
- Difficulty thinking or remembering multiple steps

2 Ask them: Do you expect to give naloxone to someone who has daily opioid use?

One dose of nasal is higher than one dose of injectable (intramuscular). Giving more naloxone than needed can cause sudden withdrawal in people who have daily opioid use.

3 Ask them: Are there other things that affect your ability to respond?

- Are they responding to a drug poisoning in very cold weather?
- Are they likely to use naloxone on a person who has problems with their nose?

YES

- I can open an ampoule and inject
- I need to give naloxone in smaller doses to prevent withdrawal
- I won't be using naloxone in very cold weather
- The person has problems with their nose

➔ Offer **injectable** naloxone



NO

- I can't open an ampoule or inject
- I don't need to give naloxone in smaller doses
- I will be using naloxone in very cold weather
- The person doesn't have problems with their nose

➔ Offer **nasal** naloxone



Not sure?

1. Explain how to use both nasal and injectable naloxone
2. Help them decide which type of naloxone works best for them
3. Give them nasal and injectable naloxone if they ask for both

REMINDE PEOPLE: Give rescue breaths and call 9-1-1 if you need to give naloxone

In areas where emergency health services are slow to arrive:

- Offer training on both nasal and injectable naloxone
- Encourage people to use the naloxone they have
- Give training on injectable naloxone as a second kit to people who choose nasal naloxone