

NALOXONE (NARCAN)

PHARMACOLOGY & MECHANISM OF ACTIONS:

- ❑ Narcotic/opioid antagonist
- ❑ Competitively binds to narcotic sites
- ❑ Exhibits almost no pharmacological activity of its own
- ❑ Onset of action is 2 minutes
- ❑ Duration of action is 1-4 hours, depending on the dose and route of Narcan administration, the amount, type and route of administration of the narcotic being antagonized.

INDICATIONS:

- ❑ Diagnostically in coma of unknown etiology to rule out narcotic depression
- ❑ Reversal of narcotic effects, particularly respiratory depression, due to narcotic drugs ingested, injected or administered in the course of treatment. Narcotic drugs include morphine sulfate, Demerol®, heroin, Dilaudid®, Percodan®, and Percocet® (oxycodone), codeine, Lomotil®, Darvocet® and Darvon® (propoxyphene), Vicodin® (hydromorphone), Stadol®, and Talwin® (pentazocine).

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- ❑ Allergy to Narcan

ADMINISTRATION:

	ADULT	PEDIATRIC	
AEMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ 0.4 mg IV/IO/IN/IM injection, may repeat to max of 10mg❑ Chronic pain med pt: 0.1 mg titrate to effect❑ Titrate to level of consciousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IN/IM❑ Max. 0.4 mg per dose	AEMT

PRECAUTIONS & SIDE EFFECTS:

- ❑ Abrupt reversal of narcotic depression may cause:
 - Dysrhythmia
 - Nausea
 - Projectile vomiting
 - Hypertension
 - Diaphoresis
 - Tremulousness

SPECIAL NOTES:

- ❑ Pregnancy Category C.
- ❑ Be prepared to restrain the patient. Patient may become violent as the Narcan reverses the narcotic effect. Aim to titrate the dose to reverse respiratory depression but keep patient groggy.
- ❑ This drug is remarkably safe and free from side effects.
- ❑ The duration of some narcotics is longer than Narcan and the patient MUST be monitored closely. Repeated doses of Narcan may be required. Patients who have received this drug must be transported because coma may reoccur when the Narcan wears off.

NALOXONE (NARCAN) (CONTINUED)

- ❑ Assess patient for presence of narcotics. Signs and symptoms include: pinpoint pupils, depressed or absent respirations, needle tracks or abscesses on patient, or evidence of drug use at the scene.
- ❑ Sudden and occasionally violent withdrawal symptoms may be precipitated in patients physically dependent on narcotics. Large doses are rarely necessary to revive respirations in accidental overdoses, and can precipitate a severely agitated patient.