

Get Tested. Get Treated. Get Cured.

# HCV & Harm Reduction

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## NALOXONE

Naloxone, or “Narcan”, is a medication used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose. It begins working within two minutes when administered through a vein and can also be administered nasally (through the nose). Its effects last up to 45 minutes. Those who have opioids in their system may experience side effects like sweating, nausea, restlessness, trembling, vomiting, flushing, and headache. If after the first dosage is given no improvement is seen in 2-3 minutes another dose may be repeated. Many states throughout the U.S. allow for the purchase of Naloxone over the counter without a prescription. Prices can be a barrier to access for the uninsured. Many insurers cover the

purchase of Naloxone for a small co-pay. The medication’s lifesaving effects are controversial which has limited use and access to the medication. Anyone can be trained in 10 minutes on how to administer Naloxone. In many states and communities’ local responders and law enforcement are becoming equipped and trained in administering the medication. Before we can help people overcome addiction we must make sure they stay alive. Overdose often happens unexpectedly and first responders may not arrive in time to save someone’s life. If you are or someone you know is battling addiction, and there is concern of overdose, seek out Naloxone training and kits. Every life is worth saving.

**learn more by visiting [www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)**

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