

Naloxone (Narcan) NOW available to save lives

Users of narcotics who often overdose can be saved from death with the medication

Family and friends can save their life!

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that pharmacies across the state are now able to provide naloxone to their customers without a prescription. Naloxone – also known as Narcan® – is a medication that reverses opioid overdose. Improved accessibility to the medication is one of the priorities at the center of the Governor's fight to end opioid abuse in New York State.

"Heroin addiction has taken the lives of far too many New Yorkers, but today we are taking an important step forward in battling this epidemic," **Governor Cuomo said.** "By making this lifesaving medication available in drugstores *without* a prescription, we are continuing to prevent needless tragedies from occurring and ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to this critical medication."

When administered either through injection or by nasal spray, naloxone temporarily blocks the effects of opioids allowing a stricken individual to regain consciousness. The potentially life-threatening opioids include medicines prescribed to address pain as well as illicit drugs such as heroin.

Naloxone poses no danger to individuals who come into contact with it, and has no potential for being abused. It works only if a person has opioids in his or her system; the medication has no effect if opioids are absent.

Although traditionally administered by emergency medical services or hospital personnel, naloxone can be administered by laypeople with minimal training.

Pharmacists are now able to provide this training in addition to dispensing the naloxone to their customers. All individuals who are given naloxone must still go to the hospital with EMS personnel. Naloxone is effective in blocking the effects of an opioid for 30 to 90 minutes. When the naloxone wears off, someone may slip back into a life-threatening overdose.

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the State's toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369). Treatment providers can also be located by using the [NYS OASAS Bed Availability Dashboard](#) or by visiting the [NYS OASAS Find Help page](#). Visit www.combatheroin.ny.gov for more information on addressing heroin and prescription opioid abuse, including a Kitchen Table Tool Kit to help start the conversation about the warning signs of addiction and where to get help.