



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

Fact Sheet on Naloxone (Narcan) for CoC, ESG, YHDP and HOPWA Grantees
December 21, 2023

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an accidental overdose from opioids—including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications—when given in time. Like with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) or an EpiPen, Naloxone is a valuable tool that provides an extra layer of protection for those at a higher risk for overdose. As drug overdose persists as a major public health issue in the United States, HUD is committed to helping increase access to safe FDA-approved naloxone products in its affordable housing and emergency shelter programs.

Q1: What is Naloxone?

A1: According to the National Institute of Health, Naloxone is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. Naloxone comes in two FDA-approved forms: injectable and prepackaged nasal spray. See, <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>. One type of Naloxone nasal spray is Narcan.

Q2: Is Narcan an illegal drug or controlled substance?

A2: No. On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for over the counter (OTC), nonprescription use – the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription.

Q3: Can Narcan be on the premises of housing and emergency shelters assisted with CoC, ESG, YHDP and HOPWA funding?

A3: Yes. Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, is a life-saving medication, which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for over the counter, nonprescription use. To reduce the risk of death from opioid overdose, the FDA recommends that these people carry naloxone:

- People who are prescribed opioid pain relievers.
- People who are prescribed medicines to treat opioid use disorder.
- People who are at increased risk of opioid overdose, such as people who also use alcohol or other drugs such as benzodiazepines.
- Caregivers of people who are at risk of an opioid overdose.

Source: [Access to Naloxone Can Save a Life During an Opioid Overdose | FDA](#)

Q4: Can CoC, ESG, YHDP and HOPWA funds be used to purchase Narcan?

A4: Yes, the purchase of Narcan may be an allowable cost of any of the following eligible activity categories, provided that the Narcan is purchased and made available in accordance with the allowable cost criteria in 2 CFR 200.403 and the conditions that apply to the specific activity as provided by the relevant program regulation or NOFO:

- ESG
 - Street Outreach: engagement; emergency health services (when prescribed and provided by licensed professionals)
 - Emergency Shelter: shelter operations (when reasonable and necessary for operation of emergency shelter, e.g., as a component of the shelter’s emergency first aid kit)
 - Emergency Shelter: essential services-outpatient health services (when prescribed and provided by licensed medical professionals)
- CoC Program and YHDP
 - Supportive services: Street outreach; Outpatient health services (when prescribed and provided by licensed medical professionals)
 - Operating costs (when reasonable and necessary for day-to-day operation of Transitional Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing, e.g., as a component of the building’s emergency first aid kit)
- HOPWA
 - Supportive services: Health (for individuals with HIV only), drug and alcohol abuse treatment. *HOPWA grantees should ensure HOPWA is the payor of last resort for this use and Narcan is not available through any other source.*
 - Operating costs (when reasonable and necessary for operation of short-term supported housing or community residence, e.g., as a component of the building’s emergency first aid kit)

Grantees are encouraged to work with community-based organizations and health care providers to connect program participants with resources that provide Narcan. The provision of Narcan must be voluntary and cannot be a condition of receiving housing or services.

Q5: Can program participants be terminated from assisted housing or shelter for being in possession of Narcan?

A5: No. Possession of Narcan is not valid grounds for termination from assisted housing or shelter. Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, is a life-saving medication, which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for over the counter, nonprescription use. To reduce the risk of death from opioid overdose, the FDA recommends that these people carry naloxone:

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