Naloxone (Narcan®) Fact Sheet
(IL PA 096-0361)

What is NALOXONE?

Naloxone, also known by the trade name Narcan®, is a prescription medication that reverses heroin and prescription opiate overdoses.
Some people call naloxone the "opiate antidote."

Naloxone does one thing very well – it blocks the effects of heroin and opiates on the brain and reverses overdoses.

During an overdose, people stop breathing. Naloxone helps to restore breathing...and to save lives.

So…what is NALOXONE?

A lifesaver.

Naloxone saves lives.

Heroin and opiate overdose deaths are preventable. Thousands of lives have been saved as a direct result of trained laypersons using naloxone on an overdosing person. Research shows that when naloxone is distributed in communities it can reduce overdose deaths by 50 percent.

Naloxone is safe.

Naloxone is as nontoxic as water and has no potential for addiction. Naloxone does not have any effect on a person that has not used heroin or other opiates. Naloxone distribution has been endorsed by the American Medical Association, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and many others.

Naloxone is cost effective.

It costs between $20-$40 dollars for a full naloxone kit, which includes everything a person would need to reverse an overdose. Money spent distributing naloxone provides tremendous value for every dollar spent. An overdose death by comparison costs taxpayers about $30,000.

In Illinois anyone can be trained to administer naloxone.

Family, friends, first responders - all laypeople - can be taught to recognize an overdose and administer naloxone during an overdose emergency. Illinois has a law that allows for laypersons to use this lifesaving drug.

Where do I get naloxone?

To find the nearest naloxone program near you visit stopoverdoseIL.org or overdosepreventionalliance.org under the locator tab for more information. For information on the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Program please see: dhs.state.il.us