

A rise in opioid overdoses is detected. What now?



Naloxone is a drug that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose and can be life-saving if administered in time.



Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD) can aid in preventing repeat overdoses. MAT combines the use of medication (methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone) with counseling and behavioral therapies.

- Offer naloxone and training to patient's family and friends, in case the patient has another overdose.
- Connect patients with hospital case managers or peer navigators to link them to follow-up treatment and services.
- Plan for the increasing number of patients with opioid-related conditions, including overdose, injection-related concerns, and withdrawal.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Providers



- Increase treatment services, including MAT for OUD.
- Increase and coordinate mental health services for conditions that often occur with OUD.

Local Emergency Department



First Responders | Public Safety | Law Enforcement Officers



- Get adequate supply and training for naloxone administration.
- Identify changes in illicit drug supply and work with state and local health departments to respond effectively.
- Collaborate with public health departments and health systems to enhance linkage to treatment and services.

Coordinated, informed efforts can better prevent opioid overdoses and deaths

Community Members



- Connect with organizations in the community that provide public health services, treatment, counseling, and naloxone distribution.

Community-Based Organizations



- Assist in mobilizing a community response to those most at risk.
- Provide resources to reduce harms that can occur when injecting drugs, including ones that offer screening for HIV and hepatitis B and C, in combination with referral to treatment and naloxone provision.

Local Health Departments



- Alert the community to the rapid increase in opioid overdoses seen in emergency departments and inform strategic plans and timely responses.
- Ensure an adequate naloxone supply.
- Increase availability and access to necessary services.
- Coordinate with key community groups to detect and respond to any changes in illicit drug use.