COMMON BRAND NAMES: Narcan

USES: This medication is used to treat an opioid overdose. Naloxone works by reversing the effects of opioids.

SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE: Slow or shallow breathing, blue or gray lips and fingernails, pale and/or clammy skin, unable to wake up or respond.

HOW TO USE: If you suspect someone has overdosed on opioids:

1. Call 911
2. Give naloxone:
3. Give second dose of naloxone in 2-3 minutes if no response to first
4. Perform rescue breathing if comfortable doing so

Patients should be instructed to tell family/friends where naloxone is stored and how to administer it in case of an overdose.

SIDE EFFECTS: Anxiety, sweating, nausea/vomiting, shaking may occur. Talk to your doctor if these occur. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, get medical help right away if you notice any symptoms of serious allergic reaction, including: itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing. This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed, contact your doctor or pharmacist.