

# NALOXONE (*Narcan*) (B1)

(Revised: January 2014)



**TYPE:** Narcotic antagonist [S4]

**PRESENTATION:** Varies frequently – check before use

**ACTION:** Reverses the effects of narcotic analgesics.  
**IV** – onset: 1 – 2 minutes; duration: 30 – 45 minutes.  
**IM:** timing unknown, but thought to have a slightly longer onset and duration than when given IV.

<b>USES:</b>	<b>ICP</b>	1. Coma	<b>AP</b>
	<b>ICP</b>	2. Drug overdose and poisoning	<b>AP</b>
	<b>ICP</b>	3. Use in situations where there is significant decrease in level of consciousness; where there is hypoventilation <i>and/or</i> loss of protective reflexes; and where overdose of narcotics cannot be positively excluded	<b>AP</b>

**ADVERSE EFFECTS:**

1. May precipitate acute withdrawal syndrome in narcotic addicts
2. Occasional aggressive behaviour following reversal
3. Nausea and vomiting

**CONTRA-INDICATION:** Known hypersensitivity

**continues over**

## NALOXONE (*Narcan*) (B1) – cont.



### DOSES:

#### ADULT:

<b>ICP</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> dose: 0.8mg <b>IM</b>	<b>AP</b>
<b>ICP</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> dose: 0.8mg <b>IM</b> OR	<b>AP</b>
<b>ICP</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and subsequent doses: 0.4mg <b>IV</b> increments, fast push. May repeat IV dose up to 3 times (to maximum of 2mg). (All doses may be administered IM or IV as the situation demands).	

#### PAEDIATRIC:

<b>ICP</b>	<b>IM:</b> 0.01mg/kg Repeat after 2 – 5 minutes if no effect. Maximum paediatric dose: 3 x calculated doses.	<b>AP</b>
<b>ICP</b>	<b>IV:</b> 0.01mg/kg – fast push Maximum paediatric dose: 3 x calculated doses. (All doses may be administered IM or IV as the situation demands).	

#### SPECIAL NOTES:

- When used IV, the effect may wear off rapidly, especially if a large dose of narcotic has been taken. An IM dose is highly recommended if the patient is likely to refuse transport.
- Special care is needed if long-acting agents are known or suspected to have been used (e.g. MS Contin, methadone, etc). In this case, give a larger IM dose and strongly encourage transport to hospital.