SINGS & SYMPTOMS

People overdosing may exhibit any or all of the following symptoms:

- Small, pinpoint pupils.
- Blue/purple fingernails and lips.
- Limp body, won’t wake up.
- Shallow or stopped breathing.
- Faint heartbeat.
- Gurgling, choking noise.

ALWAYS ACT!

Even if you’re not sure if someone is overdosing, act like their life depends on it. It does! Call 9-1-1, administer naloxone, and perform rescue breathing. *Don’t ever leave someone alone!*

GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

California’s Good Samaritan Law protects you from arrest, charge and prosecution when you call 911 at the scene of a suspected drug overdose. Nobody at the scene should be charged for drug possession or paraphernalia.
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

1. Call 9-1-1. A person may overdose again if the naloxone wears off.

2. Try to wake the person. Yell their name and rub hard in the middle of their chest.

3. Check for breathing and a pulse in the neck or wrist.

4. Administer naloxone. This can be done by injecting it into the muscles.

5. Try rescue breathing. Use a mask if you have one.

6. Prevent choking by putting the person on their side.

7. Administer 2nd dose of naloxone after 3 minutes if the person does not wake.

WHAT IS NALOXONE?

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.

- Naloxone only works with opioids (i.e. heroin).
- Naloxone has no effect if a person does not have opioids in their body.
- Naloxone can be administered by anyone.
- Naloxone is not addictive and has no potential for abuse.
- Naloxone is NOT a controlled substance.
- Naloxone has been used for more than 40 years.
- Naloxone is safe and has little to no side effects.
- Individuals who regularly use opioids may experience withdrawal symptoms if given naloxone. This is rarely life-threatening.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- People who have previously overdosed on opioids.
- People who have had a period of abstinence from taking opioids, such as recently being released from jail/prison or detox.
- People taking other substances with opioids, such as anti-anxiety meds, sleep aids, or alcohol.
- People taking high doses of opioids, or people taking opioids for a long period of time.

WARNING!

If you or a loved one has been prescribed an opioid, or if you know someone at risk, you should always carry naloxone.

Visit HACHR for more information!