

# Naloxone information for workers

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## Overdose in Victoria

In 2017, 523 Victorians died of a drug overdose. Pharmaceutical drugs contributed to 414 of those deaths, illegal drugs 271 and alcohol 151. (1)

In many of these cases, someone else was present and could have prevented death if they had naloxone and knew how to use it.

## What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a type of medicine called an opioid antagonist which temporarily reverses the effects of opioid overdose, allowing the person to breathe again while help is on its way. Naloxone does nothing but reverses the effects of opioid drugs and cannot be misused to get high.

## How is naloxone supplied?

Naloxone is supplied as an intra-muscular (IM) injection available in a five-pack of one-dose (400mcg) ampoules or as a single five-dose prefilled syringe. It is also available in a nasal spray containing 1.8mg of naloxone (equiv to a single 400mcg injection).

Ampoules and prenoxad can be prescribed by a doctor and are available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; normal prescription charges apply. All three are also available directly from a pharmacist without a prescription (this will cost more). For examples of naloxone prescriptions go to [www.penington.org.au/cope](http://www.penington.org.au/cope)

## Naloxone comes in three formulations



Ampoule



Prenoxad



Nyxoid