



OFFICE OF HOUSING

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

Fact Sheet on Naloxone (Narcan) in Multifamily Housing
October 31, 2023

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids—including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications—when given in time. Like with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) or an EpiPen, naloxone enables those who encounter someone experiencing a life-threatening event to intervene directly, taking a potentially life-saving action. As drug overdose persists as a major public health issue in the United States, HUD is committed to helping increase consumer access to safe FDA-approved naloxone products in its affordable housing.

Q1: What is naloxone?

A1: According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), naloxone is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. Naloxone comes in two FDA-approved forms: injectable and prepackaged nasal spray. Narcan is a type of naloxone nasal spray. Click on the following link for more information on naloxone: <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>

Q2: Is Narcan an illegal drug or controlled substance?

A2: No. On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, for over the counter (OTC), nonprescription use – the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription.

Q3: Can Narcan be on the premises of Multifamily Housing?

A3: Yes. Narcan is not a controlled substance; therefore, Narcan is permitted in HUD-assisted housing.

Q4: Are Owners allowed to make Narcan available to residents?

A4: Yes. Owners may collaborate with community partners to make Narcan available to residents.

For example:

- Narcan may be made available in resident common areas of the property.
- Narcan can be made available to residents at a drop-in clinic or community event.
- Owners may work with community partners that hand out Narcan to residents on or off a property's premises.

Q5: Can residents be terminated from assisted housing for being in possession of Narcan?

A5: No. Possession of Narcan is not grounds for any adverse action, including termination of tenancy or eviction.