



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

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

Fact Sheet on Naloxone (Narcan) in HCV and Public housing
September 1, 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 is a valuable tool that provides an extra layer of protection for those at a higher risk for overdose. 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 Institute of Health, Naloxone is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. Naloxone comes in two FDA-approved forms: injectable and prepackaged nasal spray. See, <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>. One type of Naloxone nasal spray is Narcan.

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 HCV and public housing?

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

Q4: Can Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) use Section 8 or Section 9 HUD funds to provide Narcan to residents?

A4: No. The purchase of Naloxone (Narcan) is not an eligible expense. However, PHAs can use other federal and non-federal sources. For example, Choice Neighborhoods funds (if provided for supportive services) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in partnership with a city.

Q5: Are PHAs allowed to make Narcan available to residents?

A5: Yes. A PHA may collaborate with community partners to make Narcan available to residents. For example:

1. Narcan may be made available in resident common areas of the PHA.
2. Narcan can be made available to residents at a drop-in clinic or community event.
3. PHAs may work with community partners that hand out Narcan to residents on or off PHA premises.

Q6: Can residents be terminated from assisted housing for being in possession of Narcan?

A6: No. Possession of Narcan should not be treated as evidence of drug use and is not grounds for any adverse action (including termination of tenancy or eviction). PHAs are allowed but are

not required to terminate the tenancy of a resident based upon other evidence of current drug-related criminal activity (including illegal use of drugs) or a pattern of illegal use of a drug that interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.