



# Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: December 14, 2018

## Medication Profile

**Naloxone**  
(Narcan)

**Class:**

Opioid Antagonist

**Action:**

Antagonizes opioid effects by competing for the same receptor sites.

**Onset:** IV/IN 1-minute  
IM 5-minutes

**Peak:** Unknown

**Duration:** 1-4 hours

**Indications:**

Altered level of consciousness/  
respiratory depression with suspected  
opioid OD

**Contraindications:**

Hypersensitivity/allergy

**Side Effects:**

GI: Nausea, vomiting  
CV: Hypertension, tachycardia  
CNS: Tremor, N/V, diaphoresis, withdrawal (opiate)

**Notes:**

- Shorter duration of action than many opioids – repeated doses may be necessary.
- Monitor patient closely on long transports.
- Precipitates withdrawal in addicts (nausea, vomiting, sweating, tachycardia, increased BP, tremulousness).

**This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.**

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Page 1 of 1