Naloxone

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Opioid antagonist

How it works: Higher affinity for the opioid receptors than opioids — displaces them from the receptor for a short period (per page)

USE IT FOR

- Narcotic effect causing respiratory/cardiac failure or arrest
- Reverses the opioids listed on the page: morphine, Dilaudid, fentanyl, Demerol, methadone, heroin, and others
- Synthetic analgesic overdose: Nubain, Stadol, Talwin, Darvon (per page)

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: hypersensitivity
- May cause withdrawal symptoms — monitor the patient carefully
- May need higher doses for certain overdoses
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: 2 mg IN (1 mL per nare)

Peds: [dose not stated in original text]

Repeat: IV/IO: 0.4 mg increments, titrated to restore respiratory status (per page)

WATCH FOR

- Withdrawal symptoms
- Abdominal pain; diarrhea
- Anxiety
- Convulsions
- Nausea/vomiting
- Tremors
- Sweating

PEARLS

- Onset 1-3 min; peak 5-15 min; half-life 30-45 min (per page)

Take Home Message:

Naloxone reverses opioid respiratory failure — 2 mg intranasal, or 0.4 mg IV/IO increments titrated to breathing.