

Poison Antidote



Naloxone...the Rescue Drug

Naloxone is a drug that is getting more attention in Utah and has the potential to save lives. It has the ability to reverse overdoses caused by heroin and prescription opioids such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, morphine, and fentanyl.

In recent years, Utah has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of deaths related to opioid use. As reported by the Utah Department of Health, 24 people die each month in Utah from prescription drug overdose. Utah currently ranks 4th in the nation for drug-poisoning deaths. These fatalities now outpace deaths from firearms, falls, and motor vehicle crashes.

The symptoms of an opioid overdose include slow or halted breathing, extreme drowsiness, and the loss of consciousness. This shutdown of breathing eventually can lead to death if the individual does not receive immediate medical attention. Naloxone is a drug that works by blocking or reversing the effects of opioid drugs. This allows the individual to regain consciousness and start breathing. It is administered through an injection into the arm or leg or through a nasal mist. Even if an individual regains consciousness after receiving naloxone, they must receive medical attention since the effects of naloxone only last 30-60 minutes, and the opioid may stay in the body longer than that.

If you or someone you care for is taking opioid medications, talk to your doctor to find out more about naloxone and request a prescription. Naloxone is also available through a variety of pharmacies throughout Utah. Many of these pharmacies offer naloxone without a prescription from the physician who prescribes your pain medication.

Source: UOAD.org



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The Poison Control Center... Something You Never Outgrow

The Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) has served Utah for more than 60 years. During that time UPCC has helped people of all ages in a wide range of circumstances. Many of the calls received by the UPCC are related to young children, which leads some people to believe that this group is the only one served by the UPCC. However, the poison center's 24-hour emergency telephone service is available to everyone, every day of the year, no matter his or her age. Every call to the UPCC is free, confidential, and answered by a toxicology expert. Here are some examples, broken down by age, that represent a typical day at the UPCC:

“Utah Poison Control Center. How may I help you?...”

Birth – 12 years

- o “I keep bleach in a spray bottle for laundry and my 2 year-old just sprayed herself in the face and eyes.”
- o “I just gave my 4-year-old his 10-year-old sister’s medicine.”
- o “My child just came back from a hike with a rash on his arms and hands.”

13 – 19 years

- o “My daughter has a headache and took double the amount of Tylenol she was supposed to.”
- o “I was in the garage and drank from a sports drink bottle. It turns out it was windshield wiper fluid!”
- o “My teenage son drank four energy drinks and now his heart is racing.”

20 – 59 years

- o “My spouse was spraying a pesticide outside and now has a rash on his hands and legs.”
- o “I was using a drain cleaner and some splashed on my hands, and now they're burning.”
- o “My family barbecued chicken last night and now we're all sick.”

60+ years

- o “I took one of my medicines, forgot, and then took a second dose 30 minutes later.”
- o “How do my prescription medicines interact with over-the-counter medicines or my supplements?”
- o “I accidentally used my ear drops in my eyes. What should I do?”

Prevention Tips: As these examples show, UPCC responds to a broad range of questions and needs. To help prevent these and other poisonings, follow these simple steps.

- Keep products in original containers and up and out of reach and sight of small children.
- Take the time to read a product’s label and instructions for using it.
- Put on your glasses and turn on the lights when using medicine.
- Protect your skin and eyes when working with potentially dangerous products.
- Be sure to prepare, cook, and store food properly and at safe temperatures.
- Look for potential poison dangers in your home, and remedy them.
- No matter your age, save the poison center number in your phone and call if needed, even if you are not sure if it’s important. Help is a free phone call away 1-800-222-1222.

www.utahpoisoncontrol.org



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