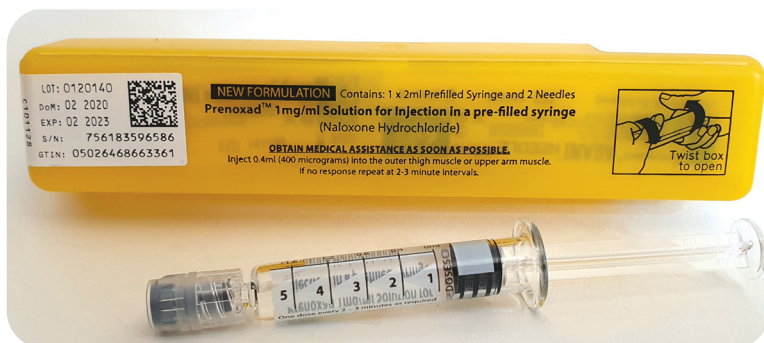


**This booklet is for anyone who has been supplied with Prenoxad® Injection**

# Prenoxad® Injection

(naloxone hydrochloride 1mg/ml solution for injection)



**This booklet tells you how to**

- Recognise the signs of overdose
- What to do
- How to give Prenoxad® Injection
- How to get a (re)supply

**For more information go to  
[www.prenoxadinjection.com](http://www.prenoxadinjection.com)**



## Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with important information about Prenoxad® Injection and how to use it.

Prenoxad® Injection is **supplied to** people who may be at risk of future opioid or opioid-related overdose. It can also be **supplied to** the friends, family members or other representative of someone identified as being at risk. Furthermore, people working in some community settings where accidental overdoses sometimes occur may **be supplied** (for example staff in hostels and night shelters, community wardens).

Prenoxad® Injection can be **issued by** any service that delivers drug and alcohol treatment and is also **issued by** staff in some community pharmacies, depending on local arrangements.

Responding to an overdose is a stressful situation in which every second counts: **take the time to familiarise yourself with this vital information.**

After reading this booklet you should know the following:

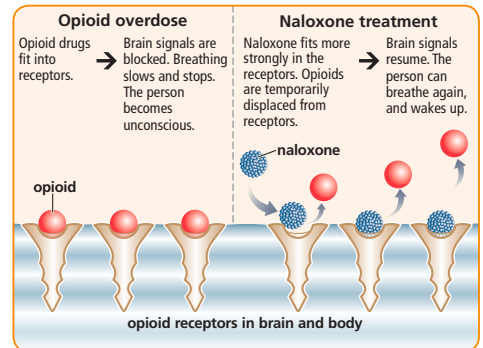
- **What a Prenoxad® Injection kit contains**
- **What to do if you think someone has overdosed**
- **How to assemble and use Prenoxad® Injection**
- **How to report the use of Prenoxad® Injection and get a new supply**



## What is Prenoxad® Injection and what is it used for?

Prenoxad® Injection contains **naloxone** which temporarily reverses the effect of opioid drugs such as; heroin, methadone, fentanyl, tramadol, oxycodone and buprenorphine. Naloxone works by displacing opioid drug molecules from the receptors in the brain and body.

If someone has overdosed and an opioid drug is involved, Prenoxad® Injection can be used to reverse the action of the drug.



## What does the Prenoxad® Injection kit contain?

Prenoxad® Injection is packaged in a hard-plastic yellow box sealed in clear plastic film. Each Prenoxad® Injection also has a manufacturer's batch number and date of expiry.

Inside the yellow box is a pre-filled syringe containing 5 doses of naloxone, 2 needles for intramuscular injection and a detailed leaflet with the information about how to use Prenoxad® Injection.

## When should I use Prenoxad® Injection?

Prenoxad® Injection should **only** be used in an emergency where it is known or suspected that an overdose has occurred and opioid drugs may be involved.

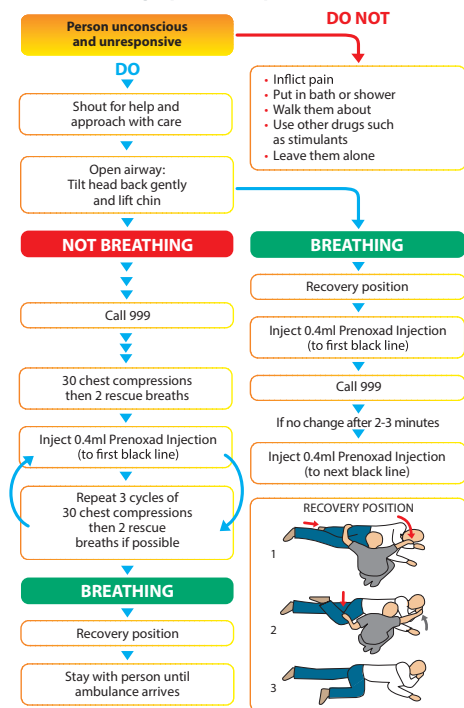
## What to do if you suspect that someone has overdosed

The main signs of overdose are;

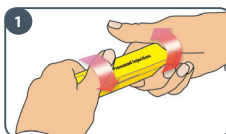
- Pinpoint pupils
- Unconscious. No response to touch or sounds (looks asleep but won't wake up)
- Breathing problems slow, irregular, noisy or uneven breathing (you might hear deep snoring, gasping, gurgling), no breathing at all

**If you think that an overdose has happened follow these steps in this flow chart.**

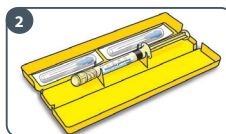
Action on finding a potential opioid related overdose\*



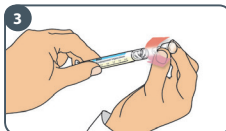
## Description of how to assemble and use Prenoxad® Injection



Remove the clear film wrapping by pulling the tear strip on the side of the box. Twist the outer plastic box as shown to break the tamper evident seals and open.



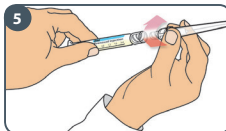
The box contains 1 syringe of Prenoxad Injection and two needles.



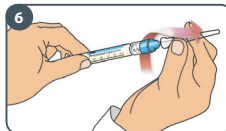
Unscrew the clear plastic top from the syringe.



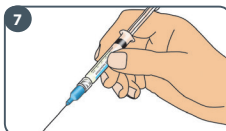
Peel back the backing paper from the needle packet and remove the needle in its protective sheath.



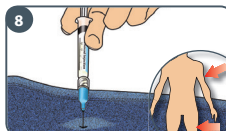
With the needle still in its sheath, screw the blue fitting on to the syringe.



Gently twist the needle sheath and remove it from the syringe.



To inject someone who has overdosed, hold the syringe like a pen



Insert the needle into the patient's outer thigh or upper arm, through clothing if necessary, and inject first dose (0.4ml). Withdraw the needle and syringe after each dose.

\*This flow chart is taken from the Prenoxad® Injection Patient information leaflet. Also available at [www.prenoxadinjection.com](http://www.prenoxadinjection.com)

## How to approach a suspected casualty, and how to assess breathing

Approach the suspected casualty with caution and care.

**MAKE SURE IT IS SAFE FOR YOU TO APPROACH THE CASUALTY BEFORE DOING SO.**

Speak loudly to the suspected casualty from a safe distance, saying “open your eyes” or “wake up”.



Get closer to the suspected casualty and try to get a response. **Shake their shoulders and continue speaking loudly, saying “open your eyes” or “wake up” again. Do not shout directly into the ears.**

If the casualty doesn't wake up or respond, and if it's possible quickly try to get help (for example by shouting for a family member/friend or other person in household/building)



**Open their mouth and clear any blockages. Open their airway by gently tilting their head back. Look, listen and feel for signs of breathing for**

**no more than 10 seconds. You should hear 1 or 2 good breaths**

**Call 999 and request an ambulance.**

When asked, give the exact location (post code if you know it) and explain that you think someone has overdosed, and that they are unconscious and breathing/not breathing. Tell them that you have naloxone.



**Follow the instructions that the call handler gives you**

## Explainer - Casualty is unconscious and BREATHING

If the casualty is breathing normally (i.e. you have detected 1 or 2 breaths/ breathing in the casualty during the 10 second assessment) but is unconscious (i.e. can't be woken up):

1. Move the casualty into the recovery position, lying on their side, mouth open and pointing towards the ground (see steps below).
2. Give 0.4 ml Prenoxad® Injection.
3. Call the Emergency Services on 999 and ask for an ambulance explaining that you have a casualty who is UNCONSCIOUS BUT APPEARS TO BE BREATHING.
4. If the casualty does not wake up/regain consciousness, keep them in the recovery position and give further doses of Prenoxad® Injection every 2 to 3 minutes.
5. Stay with the casualty and continue to monitor their breathing. If there is a decrease in breathing give another 0.4 ml Prenoxad® Injection solution every 2 - 3 minutes (if you have some left). If the casualty's breathing becomes less frequent or stops, you may need to give basic life support.

*(see instructions on page 6).*

To put someone into the recovery position, follow the steps below:



Remove the casualty's glasses (if worn).  
Kneel beside the casualty  
Make sure that both legs are straight.



Place the arm nearest to you out at right angles to the body, elbow bent with the hand palm facing upwards.



Bring the far arm across the chest, and hold the back of the hand against the casualty's cheek.



Keeping the hand pressed against the cheek, pull on the far leg to roll the casualty.



Adjust the upper leg so that both the hip and knee are bent at right angles.



Open their mouth to avoid choking.  
Adjust the hand under the cheek, if necessary, to keep the head tilted.  
Check their breathing regularly.

## Explainer - Casualty is unconscious and **NOT BREATHING NORMALLY**

**If the casualty is not breathing normally (i.e. you have not detected 1 or 2 breaths/ breathing in the casualty during the 10 second assessment):**

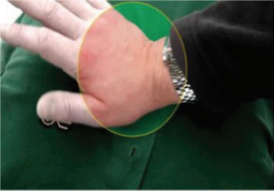
1. Call the Emergency Services on 999 immediately and ask for an ambulance, explaining that the casualty is UNCONSCIOUS AND NOT BREATHING NORMALLY.
2. Give basic life support by giving 30 chest compressions and attempting 2 rescue breaths (see instructions).
3. Give one dose – down to the first black line (0.4 ml) of Prenoxad® Injection.
4. If the casualty is still not breathing normally, give 3 more sets of 30 chest compressions and 2 rescue breaths followed by another dose of 0.4 ml Prenoxad® Injection.

**Repeat this as many times as necessary until:**

- The casualty starts breathing normally.
- The ambulance arrives.
- If the casualty begins to breathe normally, move them to the recovery position, lying on their side, mouth open and pointing towards the ground. (see diagram on page 3).  
Stay with them and continue to monitor their breathing.

## Explainer - Giving chest compressions

- Place one hand on top of the other and interlock your fingers.



- Place the heel of your hand on the breastbone at the centre of the casualty's chest.
- Lock out your arms so they are straight. You will be directly over the casualty. Press straight down by 5–6 cm on their chest, then release.

Press down 5 to 6 cm



- Repeat the compressions 30 times.

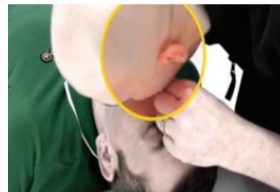
## Explainer - Giving rescue breaths

### To give rescue breaths:

- Open the casualty's mouth to check if there are any obvious obstructions.
- Tilt the casualty's head gently and lift the chin up with two fingers.



- Pinch the casualty's nose.
- Give rescue breaths by putting your mouth to theirs, making sure that your lips form a seal around the opening of their mouth, and blow steadily.



- Check that their chest rises while you inflate their lungs, and their chest falls as the air leaves their body.



- Attempt to give two rescue breaths, one or two seconds apart

## What will happen immediately after injecting a dose of Prenoxad® Injection and what should I do?

Prenoxad® Injection may take between 1-5 minutes before it begins to work, therefore there may not be any immediate change in the casualty.

Once it has started working, the effects of Prenoxad® Injection may last for around 20 minutes and up to one hour. Prenoxad® Injection DOES NOT remove opioid drugs from the body, only from the brain receptors, thereby helping restore breathing.

Prenoxad® Injection is a short acting medicine, and many of the opioid drugs often involved in overdoses last much longer in the body. This means that it is possible for the casualty to slip back into overdose. This is why it is essential to still seek medical help even if the casualty appears to be fully conscious/awake and breathing normally.

It is important that you explain to the casualty what has happened and give them reassurance. You should also tell the casualty NOT to use any other drugs (including alcohol) to overcome withdrawal symptoms if they experience them.

For these reasons, it is important that the casualty is not left alone after receiving Prenoxad® Injection, even if they regain consciousness.

## How do I dispose of Prenoxad® Injection?

After you have used Prenoxad® Injection, any left-over product, including used and unused needles, should be given to the attending emergency services.

If this is not possible, you should contact the service that gave you Prenoxad® Injection and report its use. The service should offer you advice, and make sure that you are re-supplied. You can dispose of the used Prenoxad® Injection pack by handing it into a pharmacy or any needle exchange service.

Prenoxad® Injection should not be disposed of via drains or household waste.

## How do I get re supplied with Prenoxad® Injection?

It is important that you report the use of Prenoxad® Injection to the health care provider or other service provider that supplied you with the kit you used (for example the drug and alcohol recovery service or community pharmacy service where you were supplied from). This will assure that you are re-supplied quickly with a new Prenoxad® Injection, in case you need it again for future use

## What are the risks with Prenoxad® Injection?

Like any medicine, Prenoxad® Injection can cause side effects although not everyone experiences them. People supplied with Prenoxad® Injection should be aware of these possible side effects so they can best help a casualty who might experience side effects after receiving Prenoxad® Injection.

These side effects can be like withdrawal symptoms and may be due to the rapid reversal of the opioid. Full details of all adverse effects can be found in section 4 of the current 'patient information leaflet'.

You can report side effects by either contacting the manufacturer directly at **drugsafety.uk@ethypharm.com** or Via the yellow card scheme to the MHRA, the UK regulator **www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard**

Any information you provide will be kept in compliance with GDPR and is confidential.