

By [Shane Hoover](#)

Repository staff writer

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Where to get naloxone without a prescription

Eighteen pharmacies are selling the overdose-reversing drug in Stark County.

CANTON The risk of fatal drug overdoses among heroin and prescription pill users has risen in Ohio with the spread of more powerful opioids, such as fentanyl and carfentanil, a drug used to sedate large animals.

Naloxone is a medication that reverses opioid overdoses. For a year, Ohio pharmacies have been able to sell naloxone without a prescription.

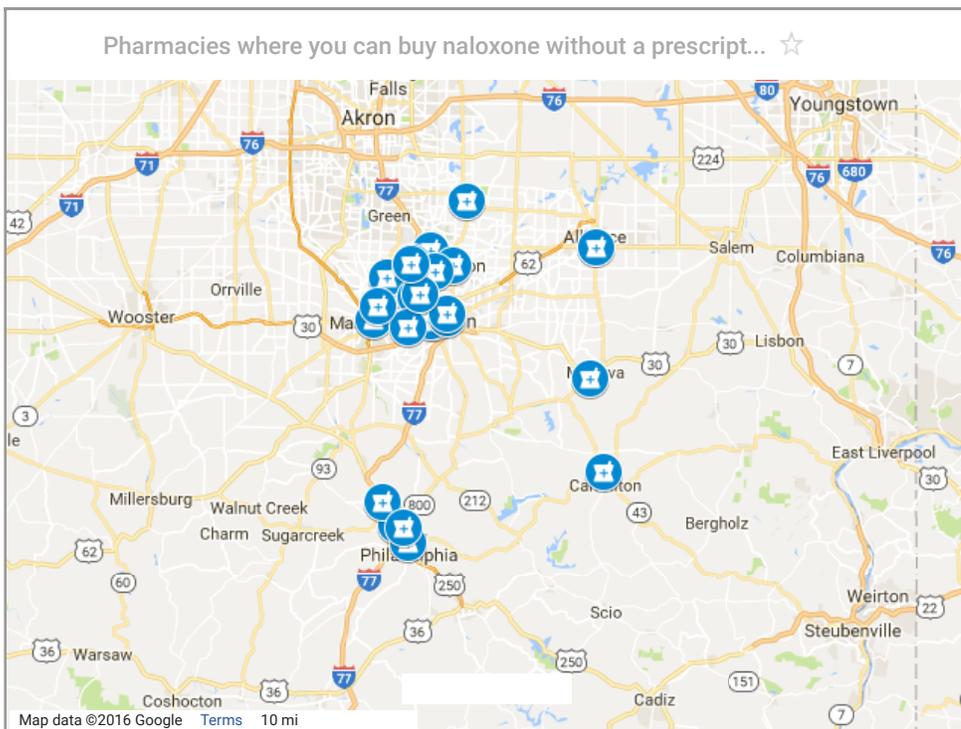
Eighteen pharmacies are approved to distribute the medication in Stark County, according to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, which lists almost 1,000 qualifying pharmacies across the state.

If you or a loved one are at risk for an opioid overdose and want to get naloxone, here are 10 things to know:

What is naloxone? Naloxone is a drug that reverses an opioid overdose. It is also known by the brand names Narcan and Evzio.

Who can get naloxone? The law allows pharmacies to sell naloxone without a prescription to a person “who there is reason to believe is experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose” as well as “a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist” such a person. Peace officers also can buy naloxone.

Where can I get naloxone? The State Board of Pharmacy has approved 18 pharmacies in Stark County to distribute naloxone without a prescription. **See the map for local pharmacies.** You can search for pharmacies in any county at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Licensing/NaloxonePharmacy.aspx



What type can I get? State law allows pharmacies to distribute the intramuscular, intranasal and auto-injector forms of naloxone, but each pharmacy’s physician-approved protocol determines which types are sold. The intranasal version of naloxone is the most common because it doesn’t involve needles, said Cameron McNamee, the Board of Pharmacy’s director of policy and communications.

How much can I get? The law doesn’t set a limit on how much naloxone a person can get, but pharmacists may have limits based on their professional judgment or their doctor-approved protocol. Pharmacies have typically given out two doses at a time, but that could change as more powerful opioids, such as fentanyl and carfentanil, become more prevalent.

Do I get any training? Pharmacists are required to give written and verbal instruction about how to properly store and administer naloxone; overdose risk factors and the signs of an opioid overdose; the need to call 911 for an overdose and information on where to get a referral for substance abuse treatment.

Is there an age limit? The law doesn't set an age limit on who can receive naloxone, so pharmacists have to use their professional judgment.

What does it cost? A nasal spray kit typically costs \$80 to \$100, but the price can fluctuate with demand, McNamee said. Auto-injectors are generally the most expensive option.

Will insurance pay for it? Medicaid, Medicare and many private insurance companies cover the cost of naloxone. McNamee recommended calling a pharmacy to ask about availability, price and insurance coverage before making a trip in person.

Where can I get naloxone for free? Project DAWN of Stark County distributes naloxone through Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center, CommQuest Services and the Alliance City Health Department. For more information visit: starkmhar.org/prevention-resources/project-dawn/

Reach Shane at 330-580-8338 or shane.hoover@cantonrep.com

On Twitter: [shooverREP](#)