

Naloxone Usage & Infusion

1

Suspected opioid overdose with a RR <10:

- Give **400 micrograms bolus of naloxone IV**
- Naloxone can be given IM but effect is delayed
- Repeat dose every 2 minutes until RR >10

2

Consider an ABG to ensure patient does not have respiratory acidosis due to CO₂ retention. Capnography is also useful here.

3

Naloxone infusion for partial response and to maintain RR >10:

- **Starting dose = 60% of the dose required to obtain RR >10**
 1. Calculate the dose required to obtain RR >10 and multiple this by 6
 2. Add this dose of naloxone to 1 L of 0.9% Saline
 3. Infused at a rate of 100 mL/hour

4

Example:

- If 400 micrograms is required to maintain RR >10
- 400 micrograms X 6 = 2400 micrograms → add this to 1 L 0.9% saline
- Here an infusion of 100 mL/h provides a dose of 240 micrograms/hour (60% of dose required to maintain RR >10)

5

Slowly decrease the infusion over 2-3 hours. Stop when RR remains stable. On discharge dispense naloxone mini-jets to known IVDUs (drug cupboard in 2a)