

## Signs of an overdose include:

- Pale and clammy face
- Limp body
- Blue lips and/or fingernails
- Vomiting or gurgling sounds
- Will not wake up
- Not able to speak
- Slow or stopped breathing
- Slow or stopped heartbeat

If you suspect an overdose,  
**CALL 911** immediately.

## How to avoid an overdose:

- Only take your own medication
- Follow the medication directions
- Call your doctor if pain gets worse
- Never mix medicine with alcohol
- Keep medicine out of the reach of children
- Learn the signs of an overdose



Office of Emergency Medical  
Services

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West Virginia Department of  
Health and Human Resources

## Office of Emergency Medical Services



## Access to Opioid Antagonist Act

## Senate Bill 335

## What are opioids/opiates?

Chemicals that act in the brain to:

- Decrease feeling of pain
- Decrease reaction to the pain
- Provide comfort

Opioids/opiates may be used to reduce pain resulting from injury or medical procedures, or as part of long-term care for cancer or other painful diseases that cause constant pain.

The frequent misuse of both opiates and opioids often result in danger.



## Effects of opioids/opiates

**Tolerance** develops when someone uses an opioid/opiate drug regularly, so that their body becomes accustomed to the drug and needs a larger or more frequent dose to continue to experience the same effect.

**Loss of Tolerance** occurs when someone stops taking an opioid after long-term use. When someone loses tolerance and takes the opioid drug again, they can experience serious adverse effects, including overdose, even if they take an amount that caused them no problem in the past.

## Recovering from an opioid overdose

Find a network of support, which may include:

- Family and friends
- Health care and behavioral health providers
- Peer-to-peer support groups
- Faith-based organizations
- Educational institutions
- Neighborhood groups
- Government agencies
- Family and community support groups

