

TIP OF THE MONTH

IM NALOXONE

MYTH

IM Naloxone is dangerous to use because of the steroid syringe and it is harder to use because you must inject someone with it.

IM naloxone doesn't work as quickly and is not as effective as nasal naloxone.

Intramuscular Naloxone means more discarded syringes in the community

Providers and Healthcare Workers prefer Nasal Naloxone over IM because it works better

People will be "triggered" if they have to use IM Naloxone because of the needle.

FACT

IM is supposed to be administered into a muscle (shoulder muscle, upper leg or buttocks). It is not harder or more dangerous than administering any other medication.

Studies actually show the opposite. The IM naloxone worked faster and less often required a second (Rescue) dose when compared with nasal naloxone. IM also was shown to be more gentle when bringing someone out of an OD than nasal.

There is no proof that dispensing Intramuscular Naloxone causes more needle waste in communities. This propaganda is just not true

We already covered above that Nasal doesn't work any better than IM. They both have their own pros and cons, but IM is also a more financially stable option for community distribution

Historically people have been saving each other with IM Naloxone for decades, In fact from 1996 when Chicago Recovery Alliance started the first Take-home Naloxone Program until 2015 when intranasal Naloxone was first FDA Approved IM was the only option. People who use drugs are the experts at teaching how to spot and reverse an overdose.

BENEFITS OF IM

GENERALLY SAFE

Naloxone is generally a safe medication and has been around in IV/IM form since 1971. if someone is believed to be overdosing but you are not sure if it is from opiates, still give the Naloxone. It will not have any affect on someone that is not using opiates

PLAN AHEAD

Unlike Nasal, it is possible with IM to administer the naloxone and start rescue breathing at the same time. Also, the syringe can be preloaded and set beside the person who is using so it is ready to go if needed

HAVE A SAFETY PLAN

It's a good idea to have a safety plan and discuss it with people you are using with, so that if you do have an overdose people will know what to do. Also check out "The Brave App" on the Google Play Store or Apple Store. The Brave App will help you create a safety plan and the app can contact a neighbor with Naloxone if you stop responding rather than EMS.