

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT

Narcan Saves Lives: Things to Know about Narcan

What is Narcan?

Naloxone (brand name Narcan) is used to treat opioid overdoses in an emergency. It does not reverse overdoses due to substances other than opioids. There are three forms of Narcan, a nasal spray, a injection and auto-injector. The nasal spray is the most commonly used by the general public due to being easy to use and lower in cost compared to the other forms.

Keep reading to learn more about Narcan.



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ARIZONA
Poison and Drug
Information Center



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Narcan Saves Lives: Things to Know about Narcan

Narcan is always safe to use.

Narcan reverses the effects of opioids in the body. As mentioned previously, Narcan only works for opioid overdoses. However, if you suspect an overdose but are not sure of the substance the person was exposed to, it is still safe to administer Narcan. It is also safe to use on children and pets.

You don't need a prescription to obtain Narcan.

In Arizona, and other states, there is a standing order that allows anyone to obtain Narcan without a prescription. In addition to purchasing Narcan, various community organizations distribute Narcan for free. Visit the Sonoran Prevention Works website to see a map of distribution sites in Arizona.

Anyone can administer Narcan.

You do not have to be a medical professional to administer Narcan. If you have it on hand and know how to use it, you can administer it. Our training, Opioids and You, includes a demonstration of how to administer the three forms of Narcan.

Myth: I don't use substances so I don't need to carry Narcan. Fact: Narcan is for everyone.

Carrying Narcan ensures that you are ready to administer to someone who may need it. A person who is overdosing cannot self-administer Narcan. With that being said, just because a person carries Narcan, that does not mean that they themselves use substances.

Additionally, keep in mind, opioids can also be prescriptions and it is possible to overdose on prescription opioids. For example, if someone takes too much of their medication or if a child gets into a medication container and ingests some of it--these are things that can also result in an overdose where Narcan would be needed.

AZPDIC Opioids and Narcan Training



<https://azpoison.com/content/opioids-and-you-training-opioid-overdose-prevention-recognition-and-response-0>



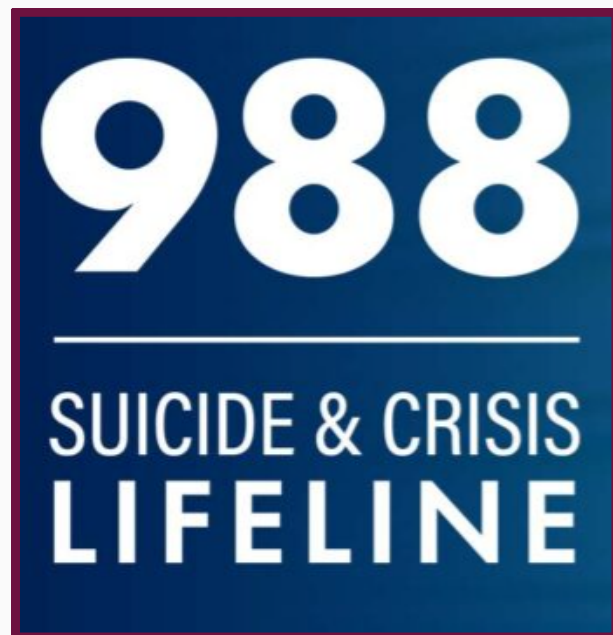


September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Last year, about 13% of cases managed by the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center were suspected suicide cases. A majority of cases occurred among teens, with 15 year olds having the highest number of cases. Exposures most commonly occurred via ingestion and involved medications.

Prevention Tips: Properly dispose of expired or unneeded medications. Lock up medications and household products. Limit access to other lethal means.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, 988 provides 24/7 confidential support.



In the Community: Upcoming Community Events

The fall is another busy time of year for our educators participating in various health fairs and community events. Below are two of our upcoming events where we will be focusing on our desert critters.

Tumamoc Hill Wildlife Extravaganza, September 27th

This event will focus on educating attendees about local desert wildlife. We will be there providing information on bites and stings prevention. This event is free to attend.

Tucson Reptile and Amphibian Show, October 4th and 5th

This event showcases various reptile and amphibian species. We will be hosting an educational display providing education on bites and stings. We will also have a couple of venomous critters so be sure to stop by and say hi.





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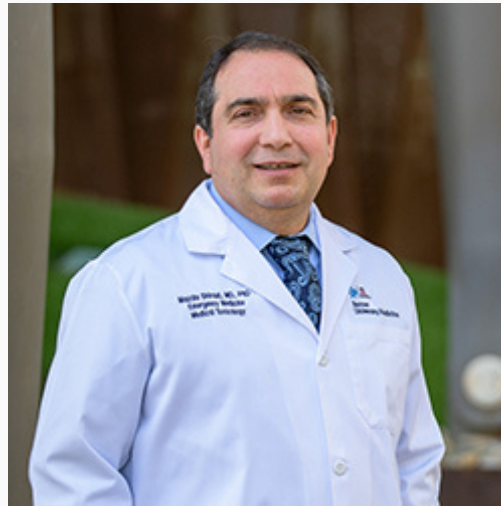
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Staff Spotlight: Dr. Nicole Delisle-Gentry, PharmD Clinical Toxicology Fellow



Meet our Medical Director, Dr. F. Mazda Shirazi

Dr. Shirazi is a professor of emergency medicine, toxicology, pharmacology and pharmacy practice in the UA Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy and Co-Director of the Center for Toxicology, Pharmacology, Education and Research. Dr. Shirazi earned an MD at the University of Arizona and also a PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology. He completed his emergency medicine residency at the University of Texas Southwestern (Parkland) and his subspecialty training in medical toxicology at the University of Arizona. He also has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering with an emphasis in biomedical engineering instrumentation and biocompatible materials.

An attending physician in emergency medicine and medical toxicology, Dr. Shirazi lists special interests in envenomations, drug-drug interactions and the public health implications of toxicology. He was recently a principal investigator in a Phase 3 pit viper antivenom and a co-investigator for scorpion antivenom study. He continues to be involved in benchtop, clinical, and public health research to benefit the citizens of Arizona.