

# Xylazine (Tranq)-Involved Overdose Response

## What is xylazine?

Xylazine (also called “tranq”) is a powerful sedative that has primarily been found mixed with illegal fentanyl. Xylazine is not an opioid, but when used in combination with opioids like fentanyl, it increases the risk of heavy drowsiness, overdose, and death.

**While naloxone does not work on xylazine, it can help restore breathing & reverse the opioid part of an overdose. Xylazine has primarily been found mixed with fentanyl, so *always give naloxone*, and then call 911 if you suspect any kind of drug overdose.**

## How to Respond to a Xylazine-Involved Overdose

Xylazine-involved overdoses can look like opioid overdoses. Respond the same way you would to a suspected opioid overdose – by giving naloxone. If someone isn’t breathing and won’t wake up:

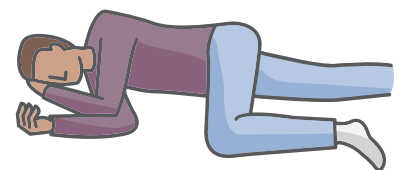
1. Give one dose of naloxone as soon as possible to reverse the fentanyl/opioid overdose.
2. Call 911 and ask for EMS. Tell the dispatcher the person is not breathing.
3. While waiting for the naloxone to work, perform rescue breathing and/or chest compressions, whichever you know how to do or are instructed to do by the 911 operator.
4. Give another dose of naloxone every three minutes. Continue rescue breathing and/or chest compressions between doses until the person starts breathing again or EMS arrives.

**If someone is breathing at a normal rate (one breath every 5 seconds), do not give them more naloxone**, even if they are still groggy or won’t wake up. Xylazine and other drugs that cause drowsiness can keep a person from waking up.

- Place the unconscious person on their side in the recovery position to reduce the risk the person will choke if they vomit.
- Continue to monitor the person’s breathing. Naloxone stops working after 30 to 90 minutes, so have more naloxone ready to give them if their breathing slows or stops again.
- Stay with them and make sure they are in a safe place until EMS arrives. If you can’t stay, make sure they are in the recovery position. Give detailed information to the 911 operator about where they are.

## Key Signs of an Opioid Overdose:

- Slow or no breathing
- Won’t wake up
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Blue/gray skin or lips



Recovery Position

Email [naloxoneprogram@doh.wa.gov](mailto:naloxoneprogram@doh.wa.gov) with questions.