

MAN'S LIFE SAVED BY NURSE CARRYING AN OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL KIT

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In an environment where opioid overdoses are the leading cause of accidental death, making an antidote to an overdose much

easier to access is a no brainer. It will save lives.”
— Andrew Kolodny, MD, medical director of the opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University's Heller School of Social Policy and Management. A nurse in Virginia was able to save the life of a man who had accidentally overdosed because she had started carrying an opioid overdose kit.

“I'd seen a few incidents where Narcan (opioid reversal agent) could have been used,” says Jennifer Spence, an RN in Virginia. “I didn't ever want to be in a situation where someone could be saved but access to Narcan was not available.”

Spence found herself in just that situation. Thanks to Sedona, Ltd., and a chance encounter with our president, Dr. Stephen Green, Spence had a reversal kit on her person.

While both were making their rounds at a hospital in Virginia, Spence and Dr. Green struck up a conversation. Dr. Green mentioned Sedona's efforts to provide free reversal kits to nurses. Spence took him up on the offer and a kit was mailed directly to her home.

Fast forward two months and Spence found herself grateful for the encounter.

Spence was in Richmond visiting her sisters when she stopped at a gas station. Next to the gas station was a motel. After pumping her gas, Spence heard shouting from the motel parking lot. “I heard someone yell, ‘I think a car hit him!,’” Spence says. She ran over to see if she could be of assistance.

“Once I was in front of him, it was evident that he had not been hit by a car. He had no signs of recent trauma. I tapped him, asking him to speak if he could hear me. I checked his pulse, which was slow and his breathing was uncoordinated.”



Jennifer Spence, Registered Nurse

Spence dialed 911.

“As I called, a friend of the victim came out and told me that the victim had just gotten high,” Spence says. “I ran to my car and retrieved the Narcan nasal kit. I gave it to him, as instructed on the back. The individual was awake and talking within minutes. His pulse was much higher and his breathing was more coordinated. After EMTs arrived, I let them know I gave him Narcan and let them keep the contents if needed for reporting.”

Spence reached out to Sedona later to share her story and encourage others to carry a kit.

“You can absolutely save someone's life by carrying this product on you,” Spence says. “I truly believe this individual would be in much worse shape, or possibly dead, if the Narcan had not been administered as quickly.”

If you are a nurse, physicians' assistant or respiratory therapist in the Commonwealth of Virginia, please consider helping us combat opioid overdoses. Visit sedonaltd.org/projects to request your FREE reversal kit.

Join Sedona in making a difference. Save more lives by donating to the SOONER Project at sedonaltd.org.

