



Dear Colleague

ADDITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES – NALOXONE EMERGENCY SUPPLY SERVICE UPDATE

Summary

1. This Circular advises of an additional naloxone product that may now be supplied under the community pharmacy naloxone emergency supply service and provides an updated service specification.

Background

2. The [Drug Death Taskforce report](#) published in July 2022 contains the following action: *All community pharmacies should hold naloxone for administration in an emergency and should be able to supply take home naloxone (THN) to people who use drugs, families and anyone likely to witness an opioid overdose.*

3. By holding a supply of naloxone, the community pharmacy network supports increased access so that it can be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

4. [Circular PCA\(P\)\(2023\)34](#), issued in September 2023, stated that a naloxone emergency supply service would be added to the community pharmacy Public Health Service from 30 October 2023. It included a service specification and updated Directions for the Public Health Service.

Details

5. In addition to the two products originally available to use under the community pharmacy naloxone emergency supply service, Naloxone 1.26mg nasal spray unit dose 2 unit dose (the “pebble”) can now be used.

3 June 2025

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

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Service Specification and Directions

6. An updated service specification for naloxone emergency supply is attached to this circular as **Annex A**.

7. The only change to the service specification is to the list of products that may be used for this service. The additional product is now included in the list of products at paragraph 2.7 which are:

- Prenoxad 2mg/2ml Pre-filled Syringe for Intramuscular Injection (first line option). Prenoxad is licensed from 16 years.
- Nyxoid 1.8mg intra-nasal spray (second line option). Nyxoid is licensed from 14 years.
- Naloxone 1.26mg nasal spray unit dose 2 unit dose (second line option). Naloxone nasal spray is licensed from 18 years.

Training

8. There has been no changes to the e-learning module for naloxone emergency supply, available on the NES TURAS Learn website at: [Community Pharmacy Emergency Naloxone Holding Service | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/learn/turas/community-pharmacy-emergency-naloxone-holding-service/) along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) resource available at the same web link. However, community pharmacy contractors should ensure that their staff are familiar with the naloxone pebble product if they opt to supply it under this service.

9. The content of this Circular has been agreed with Community Pharmacy Scotland.

Action

10. Health Boards are asked to note the contents of this Circular and to bring it to the attention of community pharmacy contractors on their Pharmaceutical Lists, GPs, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Area Pharmaceutical Committees and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs).

Yours sincerely,



Alison Strath

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Pharmacy & Medicines Division

National Community Pharmacy Emergency Naloxone Holding Service Specification

1. Service Aim

- 1.1 To contribute to a reduction in drug related deaths within Scotland by providing overdose awareness training for community pharmacy teams, and naloxone for immediate emergency supply and emergency administration from community pharmacies across Scotland. Immediate emergency supply of naloxone will be made from the pharmacy premises while emergency administration may occur within or out with pharmacy premises.
- 1.2 To ensure naloxone is stocked and available for emergency use in every community pharmacy across Scotland.

2. Service Outline & Standards

- 2.1 Legally, naloxone can be given in an emergency for the purpose of saving a life. [[The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukhr/2012/1200/contents/part/2)]¹
- 2.2 A standard operating procedure should be in place within the pharmacy which covers all aspects of the service.
- 2.3 The community pharmacy contractor will ensure that each supply of naloxone is recorded via Universal Claims Framework (UCF). Products held for this service that become out of date should be disposed and also recorded via the UCF.
- 2.4 Where possible, a note recording supply or administration should be made on the patient's medication record (PMR).
- 2.5 The pharmacy contractor must ensure that there are enough staff, suitably trained to provide this service during the pharmacy's normal opening hours.
- 2.6 The pharmacy contractor must make arrangements to ensure each community pharmacy holds at least two naloxone kits for emergency use. This can be naloxone in injection or nasal form or a combination of both.

¹ Regulation 238 and schedule 19 provide exemption from the usual rules about who can parenterally administer (relevant for any injections); Parts 2 and 5 of schedule 17 contain exemptions relevant for supply.

2.7 The specific products that may be used for this service are:

- Prenoxad 2mg/2ml Pre-filled Syringe for Intramuscular Injection. (first line option) Prenoxad is licensed from 16 years.
- Nyxoid 1.8mg intra-nasal spray (second line option). Nyxoid is licensed from 14 years.
- Naloxone 1.26mg/0.1ml nasal spray unit dose 2 unit dose (second line option). Naloxone nasal spray is licensed from 18 years.

2.8 Any suspected adverse events should be reported using the MHRA Yellow Card Scheme ([Yellow Card Centre Scotland – Making medicines safer](#)).

2.9 The service is provided according to any required regulatory and professional standards.

3. Training

3.1 All community pharmacists and pharmacy staff should complete the overdose awareness and naloxone training associated with this service, available via NES Turas Learn module: [Community Pharmacy Emergency Naloxone Holding Service | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

3.2 The community pharmacy contractor should ensure that staff are provided with the opportunity to undertake the training module and within timescales given by the Scottish Government.

3.3 Staff should note that if they have not yet completed the training module, using clinical judgement they can still supply or administer in an emergency situation.

3.4 The community pharmacy contractor should ensure that staff are provided with any updates or changes to the service. It is recommended that annual refresher training is undertaken.

4. Service Procedure

4.1 In the event of suspected opioid overdose, the process outlined in the overdose awareness and naloxone training module should be followed to respond as appropriate to the situation.

4.2 No pharmacy label is required for the naloxone product to be supplied or administered in an immediate emergency.

4.3 Submit claim via Universal Claim Work to PSD in the usual manner. Expired naloxone stock for this service should be claimed for by following the same process.

4.4 Replenishment stock should be ordered to ensure arrangements are in place for at least two naloxone kits to be held in the pharmacy.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

5.1 It is a requirement of the service that appropriate records are kept via UCF submission for naloxone use or expiry for internal and external audit, evaluation, and monitoring purposes.

6. Payment

6.1 A payment was made in May 2023 [\(Circular PCA \(P\)\(2023\)22\)](#) to enable pharmacy contractors to purchase two naloxone kits and to provide support towards the cost of training. The contractor should use the Universal Claim Framework (UCF) to claim the reimbursement cost of purchasing subsequent kits following administration or supply made from the original stock or if existing stock for this service expires.

6.2 Details of reimbursement are set out in the Scottish Drug Tariff.