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Our Ref: PCS/Naloxone
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Naloxone in Community Pharmacy

Dear community pharmacy teams,

We need your help to maximise the availability and supply of naloxone to those that may need to use it in an emergency. As you will be aware from alerts shared previously there have been a number of rapid-onset fatal and near fatal overdoses identified across Scotland. Recent reports have highlighted an increase in sudden collapse after injecting or smoking heroin. This appears linked to a rapid onset into overdose and multiple repeat doses of naloxone being required to reverse overdose.

Some of these rapid onset fatal and near fatal overdoses have been confirmed in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire over recent weeks. Public Health Scotland have issued alerts along with Community Pharmacy focused resources:

- [Concerns Grow After A Sudden Increase in Overdoses in Scotland | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)
- [Rapid Action Drug Alerts & Response \(RADAR\) | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

In an overdose situation, time is critical. In rural areas emergency response times may vary. It is therefore crucial that all points of naloxone access/supply are available.

In NHS Grampian there will likely be an information campaign to the public highlighting all services where a supply of naloxone can be accessed. This will include information about the role of Community Pharmacies in “take home naloxone supply” and stock holding of naloxone for use in an immediate overdose emergency.

As a Public facing service, Community Pharmacies have the most accessible opening hours, covering the largest geographical areas, where anyone can access naloxone in an emergency. **As a result of this community pharmacies may see an increase in requests for supply of naloxone.**

Currently for Community Pharmacy Teams there are two services available that can support you with increasing both supply of “take home” naloxone and “emergency supply” for use in an immediate overdose scenario. Details of the two services are:

Local Service Level Agreement (SLA) for “Take Home” Naloxone training and Supply

It is a requirement of all pharmacies who are signed up to deliver the SMS level 1 SLA to proactively supply naloxone as a “take home supply” to people. This means that pharmacies can provide overdose awareness and naloxone training, and

provide a supply to people at risk of, or who are likely to witness, opioid overdose.

This includes:

- People who are at risk of an opioid overdose (from any type of opioid, prescribed or illicit, e.g. patients prescribed OAT or high dose opioids, people accessing injecting equipment services, those known to use substances [as the content of illicit substances cannot be confirmed anyone using substances may be at risk of an opioid overdose]).
- People who are likely to witness an opioid overdose e.g. carers, family members, partners, friends.
- Organisations and businesses likely to be in contact with people that are at risk of opioid overdose (non-clinical settings) e.g. hostels, homeless shelters etc. (note a supply should be made to the individual asking for the supply and not the organisation).

Supplies made via this service should be recorded on NEO360. If you need NEO360 access please email: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.

Reimbursement for naloxone supplies made to people who attend the pharmacy for opioid replacement therapy are included in the SMS patient monthly fee.

For supplies made to anyone else, a £15 training and supply fee can be claimed via the monthly claim's worksheet for each person supply(s) are made to.

Replacement stock for this service can also be claimed for by submitting invoices to PCCT along with the monthly claims form.

Further information on the service, along with local guidance and support on using NEO360 can be found:

- [SLA_Naloxone-Training-and-Supply.docx](#)
- [Substance Use Service \(SUS\) Addiction Support – NHS Grampian](#)

The Naloxone Emergency Supply Service

The National “emergency supply service” is part of the Community Pharmacy public health service and instructs pharmacies to hold a supply of naloxone (minimum two kits- currently either Nyxoid or Prenoxad) for administration in an emergency.

This is for use in an immediate emergency overdose situation by **anyone** (including community pharmacy staff or a member of the public). This means any member of the public should be able to access Naloxone for use in an immediate emergency from any community pharmacy during opening hours. The full-service spec is

available at the following link which includes everything from links to the training that staff should undertake, and an FAQ document answering common questions about the service.

[PCA \(P\) \(2023\)34 - Naloxone Emergency Supply Service - Additional Pharmaceutical Services | Community Pharmacy Scotland.](#)

Actions for Pharmacy Teams

- Be aware of the information contained in this document.
- Ensure the Pharmacy has appropriate naloxone stock to provide the service(s).
- Ensure naloxone stock is in-date, re-order if not and claim as per the service specification(s).
- Note some Naloxone products are only supplied by certain wholesalers.
- Be aware of RADAR alerts and local alerts and act where needed.
- Ensure staff are familiar with the signs of overdose, and of the increased incidence currently.
- All members of the pharmacy team should be aware of both services (emergency supply and “take home” supply) and have undertaken the appropriate training.
- Be able to signpost to local treatment services.

Available Products

Further information on each product, along with resources is available from the links within the resources section.



Prenoxad 2mg/2ml pre-filled syringe for intramuscular injection (Must be prenoxad, other naloxone intra-muscular products do not contain the needles for use). Each syringe contains 5 doses.



Nyxoid 1.8mg nasal spray. Each box contains 2 nasal sprays. Each nasal spray contains one dose.

Naloxone 1.26mg nasal spray. Each box contains 2 nasal sprays. Each nasal spray contains one dose. This is only for supply to people as a “take home” option and is not currently part of the national emergency service. Each box contains 2 nasal sprays. Each nasal spray contains one dose. This is a new product and further information can be found: [Naloxone United Kingdom | Naloxone United Kingdom](#)

NYXOID, NALOXONE 1.26MG NASAL SPRAY OR PRENOXAD – WHICH IS BEST FOR PEOPLE?

- **THE ONE THAT WILL BE USED!**
- A single dose of either should work in roughly the same time
- Naloxone 1.26mg nasal spray *might* be better for people who are less likely to carry naloxone on them
- Nyxoid *might* be better for:
 - i. Younger people – licensed from 14 years vs 16 years for Prenoxad.

- ii. People who won't take the injectable product e.g. Don't like injections, Family members, non-clinical service workers.
- iii. People who have refused naloxone in the past.
- iv. Always check what the person's preference is.

Resources

- [SDF-Overdose-Alert.March-2025.pdf](#) (These SDF resources should be printed for all staff to read so they are aware of appropriate advice and information to support the public).
- **Grampian Take Home Naloxone Guidance** [Guidance For Drug Treatment Services In Grampian Undertaking Supply Of Naloxone To People At Risk Of Opioid Overdose, Significant Others And Services In Contact With Those At Risk](#)
- **SDF eLearning module:** www.sdftraining.org.uk/e-learning.
- **Overview of changes in naloxone legislation (PHE, 2015):** www.gov.uk/government/publications/widening-the-availability-of-naloxone/widening-the-availability-of-naloxone
- **Public Health England (PHE), Health Matters Tool/Website:** <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2017/03/01/health-matters-preventing-drug-misuse-deaths/>
- **International Overdose Awareness Day Website:** www.overdoseday.com/
- **Nyxoid leaflet:** www.medicines.org.uk/emc/rmm/1278/Document
- **Nyxoid video:** <https://www.nyxoid.com/uk>
- **Prenoxad leaflets, booklets etc.:** www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/3054/rmms
- **Prenoxad website:** http://www.prenoxadInjection.com/hcp/abt_naloxone.html
- **Naloxone 1.26mg nasal spray leaflets:** <https://naloxone.uk/>
- **Leaflets can be ordered from:** www.nhsghpcat.org

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the specialist pharmacists in substance use via gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot.