Denartm	ent of Health	Medical Directives and Delegation			
	ent of Nunavut	Community Health Nursing			
TITLE:	_	SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:		
Dispensing of Naloxone Kits		Pharmacy	09-026-00		
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:		
Jan 2025	Jan 2028	NEW	11		
APPLIES TO:	1		1		
Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Pharmacists, Physicians and Registered Midwives					

1. BACKGROUND:

The Department of Health (Health) is committed to providing Nunavummiut with treatment options that align with current research and best practices.

Harm reduction involves a public health approach to support the health and wellbeing of those who suffer from addition. Naloxone is a safe antidote to opioid overdose and can prevent death or brain damage from lack of oxygen during an opioid overdose.

This medical directive provides an authorizing mechanism for Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs), Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to dispense one Naloxone kit to those who are at risk of an opioid overdose or to those who may be in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid overdose (i.e., family member or friend). The protocol for dispensing Naloxone Kits will also be reviewed.

2. MEDICAL DIRECTIVE:

- 2.1. RNs, RPNs, ACPs and LPNs may dispense one Naloxone kit, either intranasal or injection, to a person at risk of opioid overdose or to a person who is in a position to assist another who is at risk of opioid overdose.
- 2.2. It is within the scope of practice for Registered Midwives (RMs), Nurses Practitioners (NPs), Pharmacists and Physicians to independently dispense Naloxone Kits, but they are required to follow the procedure outlined in Section 5.
- 2.3. Health Care Providers (HCP) are not permitted to dispense Naloxone kits to businesses and organizations, with the exception of RCMP if they are out of stock.

3. AUTHORIZED IMPLEMENTERS:

3.1. RNs, LPNs, RPNs and ACPs working in Community Health Centres; Community Home Care;

- Igaluit Health Services; Regional Public Health Units; Akausisarvik.
- 3.2. RNs, ACPs, LPNs and RPNs who possess the knowledge, skill, and judgment to do so. The implementer is required to have an understanding of how and when to use the kits along with the ability to provide all the appropriate counselling to the individual as identified in 5.3.
- 3.3. Sub-delegation is not permitted to another health care provider or staff.

4. DEFINITIONS:

- 4.1. Naloxone: Is an antidote to opioid overdose. Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids, restoring normal breathing and consciousness. Giving Naloxone can prevent death or brain damage from lack of oxygen during an opioid overdose.
- 4.2. Naloxone Kit: This is a medical kit that is provided to anyone at risk or in a position to assist a person at risk of opioid overdose. Naloxone kits are provided free of charge. There are two types of naloxone kits that are currently available in Nunavut: Intranasal Naloxone Kit and Injectable Naloxone Kit.

Nunavut Naloxone Kits Contain:

- Intranasal Naloxone Kit: 2 Naloxone 4 mg Nasal spray devices, 1 pair of gloves, 1 CPR Face Shield, GN Factsheet: How to Use Naloxone.
- Injectable Naloxone Kit: 2 ampoules of Naloxone 0.4 mg/mL, 25G Syringes, alcohol swabs, ampoule breakers, gloves, a one-way breathing mask, GN Factsheet: How to use Naloxone.
- 4.3. Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act: Provides legal protection for individuals who seek emergency help during an overdose, or who witness an overdose.
- 4.4. Health Care Provider (HCP): Advanced Care Paramedic, Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, Registered Psychiatric Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Pharmacist, Physician, Registered Midwife.
- 4.5. Individuals at Risk of an Overdose: All patients receiving an opioid for medical use or who are using opioids for non-medical use are at risk of overdose and should be offered a Naloxone Kit.

5. PROCEDURE:

- 5.1. A Naloxone kit may be dispensed to a person who is using opioids or to a person who may be in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid overdose. Anyone who requests a kit may receive one.
- 5.2. Prior to distribution, the HCP will check the expiry date of the Naloxone kit. A Naloxone kit within 2 months of expiry will not be distributed for home use. Discard the expired Naloxone kits as per pharmacy protocol.
- 5.3. Prior to distribution of the Naloxone kit the HCP will offer to review with the recipient: the contents of the kit, safe storage of the kit, when to give Naloxone, administration steps and aftercare post Naloxone administration. Refer to Appendix A for Naloxone Kits Information Sheet for Nunavut Health Care Professionals and Appendix B for the Patient Naloxone Fact Sheet.
 - 5.3.1 A person who declines a HCP review of the Naloxone Kit is still eligible to have a Kit dispensed to them.
- 5.4. Any patient who presents with an opioid overdose or in withdrawal will be immediately referred to Emergency Services (either in Hospital or Community Health Centre) to a Community Health Nurse (CHN), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) or Physician.

- 5.4.1 CHNs will refer to the FNIHB guidelines on management of substance use disorders and opioid overdose management and consult an MD/NP as indicated.
- 5.4.2 ACPs in Community Health Centres will consult a Physician/NP as per scope of practice.

6. DOCUMENTATION:

- 6.1. All HCPs who dispense a Naloxone kit will document the distribution of the kit on **Appendix C: Government of Nunavut Naloxone Dispensing Record**. The Naloxone Dispensing Record does not include patient information.
- 6.2. If there is ongoing care provided to the patient regarding opioid risk, documentation is required in the patient's electronic health record.
- 6.3. Details of care provided will be documented in order to provide a record of service and standards of care provided. This should include documentation that the client was offered training on how to recognize and respond to opioid toxicity and safe administration of naloxone and whether they accepted and received such training.

7. RELATED POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND LEGISLATION:

Policy 06-008-00: Documentation Standards

Policy 09-006-00: Administering or Dispensing Pharmaceuticals – Documentation

Policy 09-006-00: Dispensing Medications Policy 09-002-00: RN Initiated Drug Therapy

8. REFERENCES:

Federal, provincial, and territorial Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses. Opioid- and Stimulant-related Harms in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; December 2023. https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids-stimulants/

Health Canada. (2024 August, 06). <u>About the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act - Canada.ca</u> (accessed September 12, 2024).

Indigenous Services Canada (2018). *Opioid Related Disorders*. FNIHB Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care. Accessed March 20, 2024 via <u>Opioid Related Disorders - 2018 1.pdf</u> (<u>onehealth.ca)</u> Freedman, S.B., Uleryk, E., Rumantir, M. & Finkelstein, Yaron. Ondansetron and the Risk of Cardiac Arrhythmias: A systematic Review and Postmarketing Analysis. Annuals of Emergency Medicine.

2014; 64(1): 19-25

9. APPROVALS:

Approved By:	Date: 02-Apr-2025
Jennifer Berry, Deputy Minister – Department of Health	
Approved By: Busse	Date: April 5, 2025
Janet Busse, Chief Nursing Officer	
Approved By:	Date: April 3,2025
Dr. Francois de Wet, Medical Chief of Staff	

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Please contact the Continuous Quality Improvement Program, Government of Nunavut, HealthCQI@gov.nu.ca

APPENDIX A: NALOXONE KITS — INFORMATION SHEET FOR NUNAVUT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Naloxone Kits contain:

Intranasal Kits	Injectable Kits		
1) 2 Naloxone 4 mg (Narcan™) Nasal Spray devices	1) 2 ampoules of Naloxone 0.4 mg/mL		
2) 1 pair of gloves	2) 2 x 3 mL VanishPoint 25G 1" syringes		
3) 1 CPR Face Shield	3) 2 alcohol swabs		
4) Factsheet: How to Use Naloxone in Inuktitut,	4) 2 ampoule breakers		
English, Inuinnaqtun and French	5) 2 pairs of nitrile gloves		
	6) A one-way rescue breathing mask		
	7) Factsheet: How to Use Naloxone in Inuktitut,		
	English, Inuinnaqtun and French		

Where are Naloxone Kits available?

- Igaluit: Public Health and the Qikiqtani General Hospital (QGH) Emergency Department and Clinics.
- Rankin Inlet: Public Health and the Kivalliq Health Centre (KHC).
- Communities: Health Centres.

Where are the Naloxone Kits ordered from?

• Government of Nunavut Regional Pharmacies (QGH, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay).

What is naloxone?

Naloxone, or Narcan™, is an antidote to opioid overdose. Taking too much of opioid drugs (e.g., morphine, hydromorphone, heroin, methadone, oxycodone and fentanyl) can make breathing slow down or stop. Naloxone reverses this, restoring normal breathing and consciousness. Giving naloxone can prevent death or brain damage from lack of oxygen during an opioid overdose. It does not work for non-opioid overdoses (e.g., cocaine, ecstasy, GHB or alcohol). However, if an overdose involves multiple substances, including opioids, naloxone helps by temporarily removing the opioid from the equation.

How is naloxone given?

Naloxone may be given by intramuscular injection (using injectable naloxone) or by intranasal administration (using Narcan™ nasal spray).

When should naloxone be administered?

Respiratory and/or central nervous system depression in a situation where opioids may be present.

- Naloxone should be given if the patient is excessively sleepy and cannot be roused with a loud voice or sternal rub.
- Other indications include slow, shallow, or no respirations, or pinpoint pupils in a patient who is difficult to
- Other signs of overdose include blue or purple fingernails or lips.
- The patient may also have a slow heartbeat and/or low blood pressure.

How does naloxone work?

Both naloxone and opioids bind to the same sites in the brain, and these sites affect breathing. However, naloxone binds more tightly than the opioids, knocking the opioids off the receptors and restoring breathing. Naloxone acts fast (usually within 5 minutes), and the protective effect lasts for 30 to 90 minutes. The body will have broken down some of the opioids over time, but naloxone does not destroy the opioids. So, if large doses, strong opioids (e.g., fentanyl), or long-acting opioids (e.g., methadone) are involved, or the individual has liver damage, another dose of naloxone may be needed. It is recommended to use two doses of naloxone, and it is always important to seek medical help when someone overdoses.

Can naloxone be harmful or be abused?

Naloxone does nothing in someone that has not taken opioids. Naloxone cannot get a person high and does not encourage opioid use. While naloxone is a very safe drug, it may cause individuals dependent on opioids to go into withdrawal.

Are there risks associated with using naloxone?

The only contraindication to naloxone is hypersensitivity. Naloxone may cause opioid withdrawal in those with opioid dependence. Withdrawal symptoms include pain, high blood pressure, sweating, agitation and irritability. In addition, it can be unsettling to come out of an overdose unaware of what has happened.

What information should be reviewed with the person requesting the Naloxone Kit?

Review the contents of the kit, the information on the factsheet and the following:

Но	How to Respond to an Opioid Overdose					
		Intranasal Naloxone Kits	Injectable Naloxone Kits			
2	UNRESPONSIVE? CALL FOR MEDICAL	 Stimulate with noise (shout, use their name). Touch (Squeeze their fingertips or the muscle between the neck and shoulder), remember, tell person what you are doing before you touch them. Put person in the recovery position if you have to leave them alone. 				
	HELP (Health Centre or Hospital)					
3	CLEAR AIRWAY & VENTILATE	 Clear airway (removing anything from their mouth), tilt head, lift chin. Pinch nose and give 2 breaths. Continue 1 breath every 5 seconds until person is breathing again. ***IF THERE IS NO PULSE, AND IF TRAINED, BEGIN CHEST COMPRESSIONS*** 				
4	GIVE 1 st DOSE	 Remove device from packaging. Do not test the device. There is only one dose per device. Tilt the person's head back and provide support under their neck with your hand. Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger. Put your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril. Your fingers should be right up against the nose. Press the plunger firmly with your thumb to give the dose. Remove the device from the nostril. 	 Tap ampoule to send all liquid to the bottom. Push top away from you to snap open the ampoule (may use ampoule breaker). Pull plunger to draw up liquid. Inject into a large muscle (thigh, upper arm, or buttock). Inject at 90°, push plunger until you hear a click (needle will retract). 			
5	EVALUATE & GIVE 2 nd DOSE IF NEEDED	 Continue to give breaths until they respond (are breathing again on their own). After 2-3 minutes, if still unresponsive, give a 2nd dose of naloxone. Continue breaths until the person is breathing on their own or until medical help arrives. ***IF THERE IS NO PULSE, AND IF TRAINED, BEGIN CHEST COMPRESSIONS*** 				
6	AFTERCARE	 Naloxone wears off in 30-90 minutes. The person will not remember for at least 2 hours and do NOT allow them to take more opioids (could overdose again). Stay with person until medical assistance arrives. 				

How should the Naloxone Kits be stored?

At room temperature and protected from light. As with all medications, the naloxone kit should be safely stored away from children, but in a location that can be easily found in an emergency. Patients should be aware of the expiry date of their naloxone so that it may be replaced before it expires.

APPENDIX B: PATIENT NALOXONE FACT SHEETS

Fact Sheet

How to Use Naloxone

What is naloxone and why do you need it?

Naloxone is an antidote to opioid overdose. Taking too much of opioid drugs (like morphine, oxycodone, methadone, heroin or fentanyl) can slow down or stop breathing. Naloxone restores normal breathing and consciousness within one to 5 minutes of injection. Giving naloxone can prevent death or brain damage from lack of oxygen during an opioid overdose. Naloxone can be injected through clothing into the big muscle of the thigh, arm or buttocks.

Signs of Opioid Overdose



Not responsive to noise or touch.



Breathing will be slow or absent.



Choking, gurgling or snoring sounds.



Lips or nails are blue, skin is cold or clammy.



Pupils are tiny.

Overdose is a medical emergency. Immediately contact your local health centre or hospital!

How to use Naloxone

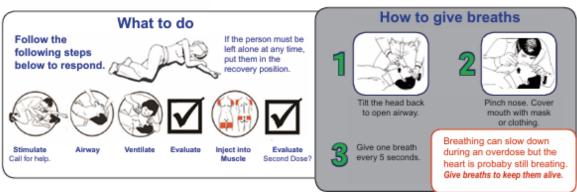


Tap ampoule to send all liquid to the bottom. Push top away from you to snap open the ampoule (may use ampoule breaker).





Inject into muscle. Press plunger all the way down to trigger safety (retraction).





How to Use Naloxone Fact Sheet - July 2018 - English

Adapted for use with the permission from the College of Pharmacists of British Colombia

Department of Health

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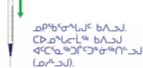
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How to Use Naloxone Fact Sheet - July 2018 - Inuktitut

Department of Health

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Naunaitkutaq Titiraq

Qanuqtut Aturiami Naloxone-mik

Hunaukmat naloxone qanuqtutlu ihariagiviuk?

Naloxone havautiuyuq opioid-tuvallaarumik. Opioid aangayaaqtuvallaarumik (morphine-tut, oxycodone-tut, methadonetut, heroin-tut uuminngaluuniit fentanyl) kayumiiqtitpaktuq anirhaaqninganik anirhaaruiqtiqluguluuniit. Naloxone ihuarhapkaivagaa anirhaaliriami tupapkailunilu taimaa 1minitsimik 5minitsimikluuniit kapurhiraangat taafumanik. Tunigiami naloxone-mik tuquttailidjutauyuq qaritauyarlirnairutiuyuqlu anirhaaruiraangata opioid-tuvallaaraangata. Naloxone kapuqtauvaktut humaangittuq aanuraatigut angiyunut nukingamut ilutakkut, talliqmut nulukkulluuniit.

Naunaitkutat Opioid-tuvallaarumik



Kiulimaittug nivyaaqtunik kahaktaugumiluuniit.



Kayumiittunuamik anirhaalirumi anirhaaruknaiqluniluuniit.



anirhaaktilluni tuhagnaghiug qamnguqtuqluuniit.



Tupilirumi, nuvanga Umilrungit kukingilluuniit argyiktanguqhutik, uvininnga niglaqhuni kinipavyaktuqluuniit.



Takuvinga mikkangurhutik.

Havautituqpallaarniq munarhitkunnut qilamiuqtuqatauviuyuq Qilamiuqluni uqaqatigilugu munarhitkut aaniravilluuniit



Qanuqtut aturiami Naloxone-mik



Piiyaqlugu mitqutaa pigiami imanganik



Kapuqlugu nukinganut. Mitgutaa kapuqlugu tamaat nutgarutinganut (piirutaa).



Apkaluqtaqlugu mikkaq hikuliannuaq tamaat imalik ataanut.

Taadjarlugu matua ahinut iliknit angmariami mikkaq





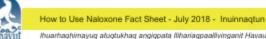
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Anirhaaklutit atauhiqmik ganinnganut taimaa tallimat tigliqtumiq gaangihakpat.



Qingangit umiklugit Qania matulugu kalikumik

Kayumiirniaqtuq anirhaaktuq taimaa havautituqpallaarumi kihimi, uumataa tigligtaqtuq - Anirhaaklutit qaninnganut anirhaaliriami.



Ihuarhaqhimayuq atuqtukhaq angiqpata lihariaqpaallivinganit Havautitarviingit British Colombia-mut.

Department of Health

Fiche d'information

Comment utiliser la naloxone

Qu'est-ce que la naloxone, et à quoi sert-elle?

La naloxone est un antidote en cas de surdose d'opioïdes. La surconsommation d'opioïdes (p. ex., morphine, oxycodone, méthadone, héroïne ou fentanyl) peut ralentir ou faire cesser la respiration. L'injection de naloxone permet de rétablir la respiration normale et la conscience en 1 à 5 minutes, ce qui contribue à prévenir les dommages au cerveau, voire les décès, causés par le manque d'oxygène lors d'une surdose. La naloxone peut être injectée à travers les vêtements dans le gros muscle de la cuisse, du bras ou de la fesse.

Signes de surdose d'opioïdes



Aucune réaction au bruit ou au toucher.



Respiration lente ou absente.



Bruits d'étouffement, gargouillements ou ronflements.



Lèvres ou ongles bleutés, peau froide ou moite.



Contraction des pupilles.

La surdose est une urgence médicale. Communiquez immédiatement avec votre centre de santé ou votre hôpital!



Tapoter l'ampoule pour faire descendre le liquide. Pousser sur le dessus de l'ampoule pour l'ouvrir (utiliser l'ouvre-ampoule).

Comment utiliser la naloxone



Insérer l'aiguille et tirer le piston pour prélever le liquide.



Injecter dans le muscle. Enfoncer le piston jusqu'au bout pour déclencher le mécanisme de sécurité (rétraction).





How to Use Naloxone Fact Sheet - July 2018 - French

Department of Health

Fiche adaptée aux fins d'utilisation avec la permission du College of Pharmacists of British Columbia.



Factsheet: How to Use Naloxone

What is naloxone and why do you need it?

Naloxone is an antidote to opioid overdose. Taking too much of opioid drugs (like morphine, hydromorphone, oxycodone, methadone, heroin or fentanyl) can slow down or stop breathing. Naloxone restores normal breathing and consciousness within 2 to 5 minutes of inhalation. Giving naloxone can prevent death or brain damage from lack of oxygen during an opioid overdose.





Overdose is a medical emergency.

Immediately contact your local health centre or hospital!



Another dose?



Adapted for use with the permission from the College of Pharmacists of British Colombia How to Use Naloxone Fact Sheet - July 2024 - English

How to Give Breaths



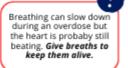




Give 1 breath every 5 seconds



Pinch nose. Cover mouth with face shield.



hospital

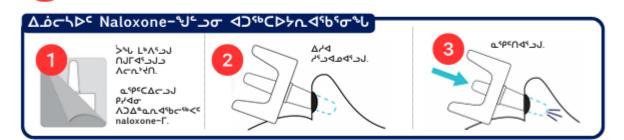


σοσδωλς: σοςγος

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Naunaitkutaq Titiraq: Qanuqtut Aturiami Naloxone-mik

Hunaukmat naloxone qanuqtutlu ihariagiviuk?

Naloxone una antidote opioid-mun havautiturjuarnirmun. Pivallaarniq amigaitpallaanik opioid havautinik (ukunatun morphine, hydromorphone, oxycodone, methadone, heroin unaluuniin fentanyl) kajumiirutauttaagtug anirhaagtunun anirhaaruirlutikluuniin. Naloxone ihuaqhiutaujuq nakuujumik anirhaarnirmun unalu qauhimalirnirmun iluani 2-min 5-mun minutes-ni aniqhaaraangat. Tunihiniq naloxone-mik ikajuutauttaaqtuq tuqunirmun qaritamulluuniin nakuun'ngiutinun anirhaaluruiraangata pitillugiit opioid-mik havautitirjuaggata.





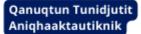
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Qilamiuqluni uqaqatigilugu munarhitkut aaniravilluuniit!





thuaqhaqtauhimajuq aturiami pihimapluni angirunik uumanga Iliharvigjuamin Havautiliqijinin British Colombia-min Qanuqtun Aturiami Naloxone-mik Kangiqhidjutikkut Titiramik - Julai 2024 - Inuinnaqtun





qunga taunungarlugu iggianga angmaumariami





Anirhaaklutit atauhigmik qaninnganut taimaa tallimat tigliqturniq qaangihakpat.

Kayumiirniaqtuq anirhaaktuq taimaa havautitugpallaarumi kihimi, uumataa tigliqtaqtuq -Anirhaaklutit qaninnganut anirhaaliriami.

Fiche d'information: Comment utiliser la naloxone



Qu'est-ce que la naloxone, et à quoi sert-elle?

La naloxone est un antidote en cas de surdose d'opioïdes. La prise d'une trop grande quantité de médicaments opioïdes (comme la morphine, l'hydromorphone, l'oxycodone, la méthadone, l'héroïne ou le fentanyl) peut ralentir ou arrêter la respiration. La naloxone rétablit la respiration normale et la conscience dans les 2 à 5 minutes suivant l'inhalation.L'administration de naloxone peut prévenir la mort ou les lésions cérébrales dues au manque d'oxygène lors d'une surdose d'opioïdes.

Signes de surdose d'opioïdes Respiration Lèvres et Étouffement, Peau froide **Pupilles** impossible à lente ou ongles bleus gargouillis ou ou moite très petites réveiller inexistante ronflement



La surdose est une urgence médicale.

Communiquez immédiatement avec votre centre de santé ou votre hôpital!



minutes, Donner

une autre dose?



Adapté pour utilisation à partir de la feuille d'information sur l'utilisation de la naloxone de l'Ordre des pharmaciens de la Colombie-Britannique avec la permission de ce dernier (juillet 2024). - Français

5 secondes

Comment faire le bouche-à-bouche



Inclinez sa tête vers l'arrière pour dégager



Donnez 1 les 5 secondes.

Lors d'une surdose, il se peut que la respiration ralentisse, mais le cœur continue habituellement de battre. Administrez les insufflations pour garder la victime en vie.

bouche

ou l'hôpital.

APPENDIX C: NALOXONE KIT DISPENSING RECORD

	Date	Type of Kit		Education and Training Provided*		Name and Designation of
		Intranasal	Injectable			HCP who Dispensed the Kit
1.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
2.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
3.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
4.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
5.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
6.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
7.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
8.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
9.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
10.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
11.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
12.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
13.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
14.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
15.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
16.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
17.				☐ Yes	☐ No	
18.				☐ Yes	☐ No	

^{*}Education and training should be offered to all those who receive a kit, but it is not mandatory.

Please fax this Dispensing Record to your Regional Pharmacy at the end of each month.

Cambridge Bay: 867-983-4201

Iqaluit: 867-975-8606 Rankin Inlet: 867-645-8348