

# Pharmacy Memo

**To:** Community Health Nurses

**From:** Carmine Nieuwstraten, A/Territorial Director of Pharmacy and Christine Weatherston, Pharmacist

**Re:** Take-Home Naloxone Kits

**Date:** July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

We would like to remind everyone of the availability of Naloxone Kits in the Territory. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.



**Naloxone Kits are available to anyone who is:**

- Currently using opioids or is a past user who is at risk of returning to opioid use, or
- A family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of overdose from opioids.

Take-Home Naloxone Kits with injectable naloxone have been available in the Territory from GN health facilities since 2017. Intranasal naloxone is also available from retail pharmacies.

Please check your health centre stock to see if you have any kits. If you do, please check the expiry date of the contents within the kit (specifically the naloxone ampoules and alcohol swabs).

Additional Naloxone Kits may be ordered from your Regional Pharmacy as per the usual ordering process.

Format	Where Available	Comments
<b>Injectable Naloxone</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Health Centres</li> <li>Qikiqtani General Hospital</li> </ul> <p>➤ Order from your Regional Pharmacy</p>	<p>Each kit contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 ampoules of Naloxone 0.4 mg/mL</li> <li>2 ampoule breakers</li> <li>2 x 3 mL VanishPoint 25G 1" syringes</li> <li>2 alcohol swabs</li> <li>2 pairs of nitrile gloves</li> <li>A one-way rescue breathing mask</li> <li>Fact Sheet on how and when to administer naloxone</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The kit will have a label on the outside indicating the expiry date of the naloxone ampoules contained in the kit.</p>
<b>Intranasal Naloxone</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retail Pharmacies.</li> <li>Patients can independently request an intranasal naloxone kit from their retail pharmacy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be easier to use than the injectable naloxone.</li> <li>Narcan® (naloxone) nasal spray is an open benefit for clients of the NIHB Program and can be obtained from a retail pharmacy.</li> <li>Narcan® nasal spray is part of NIHB's Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy meaning it is eligible for reimbursement when recommended by a pharmacist; a prescription is not required from a physician.</li> </ul>

Resources:

1. Fact Sheet: How to Use Naloxone, available in English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French (for patients).
2. Naloxone Kits Information Sheet for Nunavut Health Care Professionals.
3. Naloxone Kit Dispensing Record.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Pharmacy.

Thank you.