

URGENT - Notice to Alberta pharmacies regarding participation in the provision of Naloxone

In order to address the rising number of deaths due to opioid overdoses, Alberta Health is working with Alberta Health Services, the Alberta College of Pharmacists and the Alberta Pharmacists' Association to increase access to Naloxone (via take-home Naloxone kits) for Albertans at high risk of overdose.

Community pharmacy involvement will be a key route of access. Details on the provision of take-home Naloxone kits via community pharmacies will be provided in the near future. There will be opportunities for community pharmacy participation and Government of Alberta coverage of Naloxone kit-related costs planned for **January 2016**. Access to take-home Naloxone kits is part of a larger response to address issues related to fentanyl and other opioids.

In the meantime, should you receive inquiries about Naloxone:

- If the client is in an emergency situation, 911 should be called or they should be directed to an emergency facility;
- Naloxone can be dispensed upon receipt of a prescription for the individual intended to use it (the client would be responsible for all prescription costs);
- Alberta Health Services information on opioid-related topics, including organizations currently providing Naloxone kits free of charge, is available at drugsfool.ca.

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)
