

## Update on the Naloxone Program

Further to Benefact 563 issued December 2015, the following is important information regarding the Naloxone Program. Pharmacists are being provided this information in advance of a public announcement to provide time to complete training, program registration and order product.

In conjunction with the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA), the Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) and Alberta Blue Cross, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Health (AH) are implementing the Naloxone Program to help address the rising number of opioid (including fentanyl) overdoses and deaths by increasing access to take-home naloxone (THN) kits for at-risk Albertans.

Distribution through community pharmacies will supplement client access through other channels such as harm reduction agencies, various Alberta Health Services sites and private service providers. Information on participating sites can be accessed at AHS's site [www.drugsfool.ca](http://www.drugsfool.ca).

### Client access

For an Albertan at high risk of opioid overdose to be eligible to receive a THN kit through this program, at no charge to them, they must

- be registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan and have a valid Personal Health Number (PHN) (see required claims data elements described below);
- have a valid prescription from an eligible prescriber for naloxone; and
  - Eligible prescribers include physicians, pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization, nurse practitioners and other healthcare practitioners authorized to prescribe Schedule 1 drugs.
  - At this time, while Ministerial Order 42/2015 permits registered nurses (RNs) to prescribe naloxone, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta has directed that the RN must have access to the Take Home Naloxone kit supplied by their employer so pharmacies should not be receiving or processing prescriptions from RNs.
  - Valid prescriptions are those written for the patient. Prescribing naloxone or a THN kit for someone other than the patient (third-party prescribing) is not supported by legislation.
- have their THN kit prescription filled at an Alberta pharmacy with an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmaceutical Services Provider Agreement.

### How pharmacies can participate in this program

- To participate in this program, a pharmacy must have all pharmacists who will be dispensing and/or prescribing THN kits successfully complete the training module "Take Home Naloxone Program – Information For the Pharmacist" available online at RxA's web site at <https://rxa.ca/professional-development/thn-program.aspx>.
- Pharmacists must also complete registration with AHS. The AHS registration form can be found in the RxA training module.

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- For questions about registration with AHS and THN kits, email [naloxone.kit@ahs.ca](mailto:naloxone.kit@ahs.ca).

## THN kit order information

- Details can be found in the RxA training program.
- THN kits can be obtained at no charge through McKesson (once registered with AHS).
- A maximum of two kits can be ordered at a time per pharmacy due to limited supply.

## Receiving compensation for THN kits through the Naloxone Program

To receive compensation for THN kits through the Naloxone Program, pharmacy claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claim adjudication system with the following data elements:

- Carrier Code 16 (as the third-party plan)
- Group 23464
- Pharmacy license number
- Pharmacist identification number
- Client number (Client's Alberta PHN)
  - If the client is an Albertan but the PHN is not available and cannot be accessed through Netcare/PIN, the pseudo PHN of NX0000000 may be used.
- Client's full name (last and first name)
- Client's date of birth
- Client's gender
- Prescriber reference code
- Prescriber ID number
- Service date
- DIN 02393034 (for the naloxone in the kit – Omega 0.4mg/ml)
- Quantity - 1 (only one kit may be dispensed at a time per client)

Alberta pharmacies will be reimbursed up to \$12.30 for dispensing a THN kit and up to \$0.01 for THN kit costs (should your pharmacy software system not be able to accommodate a \$0.00 amount for the cost of the kit).

The lot number of the naloxone in the THN kit must be recorded upon dispensing but does not need to be transmitted electronically with the claim.

Pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization may prescribe THN kits to clients with valid PHNs (pseudo-PHNs cannot be accepted). Payment for the prescribing assessment would be as per the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services.

For more information about the Naloxone Program, visit the RxA web site at [www.rxa.ca](http://www.rxa.ca).

General information about naloxone, opioids (including fentanyl), overdose signs and symptoms and more are available on the Alberta Health Services website at [www.drugsfool.ca](http://www.drugsfool.ca).

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### 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)

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