

Naloxone update—naloxone moves to Schedule 2 status

Further to Benefact 575 issued January 2016, the following is important information regarding the Naloxone Program. Pharmacists are being provided this information in advance of a public implementation to provide time to understand the changes to the existing program and make any necessary adjustments to workflow processes around the sale of Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits as a Schedule 2 product.

In conjunction with the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA), the Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) and Alberta Blue Cross, Alberta Health (AH) is announcing that amendments to the **Scheduled Drugs Regulation** have been passed by the Government of Alberta designating "**naloxone and its salts for use in emergency treatment of opioid overdose outside of a hospital setting**" as a **Schedule 2 product**. This change should take effect as of **May 13, 2016**.

Pharmacists are reminded that the Standards of Practice for Schedule 2 products are applicable to the sale of naloxone for the above indication and **must** be adhered to. Pharmacists must ensure that proper documentation for every transaction involving a THN kit is entered into the patient record and the Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) of NETCARE.

Please refer to the **Guidance for Pharmacists Dispensing or Selling Naloxone as a Schedule 2 Drug** published by the Alberta College of Pharmacists for more information on these requirements and those specific to naloxone.

Changes to the Naloxone Program

For an Albertan 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);

- As naloxone is no longer a Schedule 1 drug for the indication listed above only, a prescription is no longer required to provide a THN kit to an eligible Albertan through a licenced pharmacy.
- Distribution through other channels such as harm reduction agencies, various Alberta Health Services sites and private service providers still requires that they provide THN kits pursuant to a prescription. Information on participating sites can be accessed at AHS's site www.drugsfool.ca.

Feature	Schedule 1 (until May 12, 2016)	Schedule 2 (as of May 13, 2016)
Prescription required	Yes	No (although pharmacies may continue to receive prescriptions for naloxone kits) Note: THN kits still require a prescription when dispensed through non-pharmacy locations.
Compensation	\$12.30 for dispensing Up to \$0.01 for kit cost	\$12.30 for providing (selling or dispensing) Up to \$0.01 for kit costs
Pharmacist prescribing assessment fee	Eligible	Not eligible
Reporting	Enter information into Pharmaceutical Information Network - use Prescriber reference code and ID number	Enter information into Pharmaceutical Information Network – use Pharmacist reference code and ID number if selling a THN kit
Client access	As per the Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians for prescription products.	If sold by the pharmacist, as per the Standards of Practice for Schedule 2 drug products. Note: Refer to the Alberta College of Pharmacist's Guidance for Pharmacists Dispensing or Selling Naloxone as a Schedule 2 Drug.

How pharmacies can participate in this program

If your pharmacy is **already registered** and participating in the THN program you do not need to register again. Pharmacists that have completed the THN education program do not need to take the program again.

If your pharmacy has **not registered** to participate in the THN program, please read the following:

To participate in this program, a pharmacy must have all pharmacists who will be providing 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>.

The pharmacy must also complete the registration form to be able to order THN kits from McKesson. The registration form can be found in the RxA training module. For questions about the education program and/or pharmacy registration in the THN program, please email rxa@rxa.ca

THN kit order information

- Details can be found in the RxA training program.
- THN kits can be obtained at no charge through McKesson (Item #90321) once the pharmacy is registered.
- Pharmacies may order two THN kits per order, and can re-order as often as required.
- A client may receive one kit at a time. Receipt of additional THN kits by the same client are acceptable.
- There is currently a confirmed supply available for distribution, so re-order to meet your patient needs as appropriate.

Receiving compensation for THN kits through the Naloxone Program

Alberta pharmacies will still be reimbursed up to \$12.30 for providing 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.

Claims must be billed through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT direct bill claim system with the following mandatory elements. (See Benefact 575 for the complete listing of data elements required.) -

Carrier Code 16	Group 23464
Client ID – Alberta PHN	Client's full name (last and first) Client's DOB Gender
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)
Pharmacist Identification & Reference Code	

As THN kits move to Schedule 2, pharmacists will no longer be required to prescribe this product for patients, as such, the payment for the prescribing assessment as per the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services is no longer applicable.

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

Pharmacists play an integral role in the delivery of care to Alberta's vulnerable populations and are encouraged to participate in the Naloxone Program.

As part of the Government of Alberta's harm reduction initiatives, THN kits should be provided to at-risk Albertans who require them after appropriate assessment by a pharmacist. Refusal to provide a THN kit should only be done under extraordinary circumstances. Pharmacists are encouraged to thoroughly document rationale for this refusal in the record of care.

For more information about the Naloxone Program, visit the RxA web site at www.rxa.ca.

General information about naloxone, opioids (including fentanyl), overdose signs and symptoms and more are available on the AHS web site at www.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)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. Visit <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php>

