

## Take Home Naloxone supply by hospital units

**Summary** This Information Bulletin provides guidance for pharmacy departments, emergency departments, pain clinics and other hospital units wishing to supply PBS-subsidised naloxone to patients on discharge.

**Document type** Information Bulletin

**Document number** IB2020\_036

**Publication date** 04 November 2020

**Author branch** Alcohol and Other Drugs

**Branch contact** (02) 9391 9251

**Review date** 04 November 2021

**Policy manual** Not applicable

**File number** H20/111046

**Status** Active

**Functional group** Clinical/Patient Services - Medical Treatment, Pharmaceutical  
Corporate Administration - Finance

**Applies to** Local Health Districts, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations,  
Government Medical Officers, Public Hospitals

**Distributed to** Public Health System, Government Medical Officers

**Audience** Pharmacy;Emergency Department;Clinical;Medical;Nursing Staff;Finance

## TAKE HOME NALOXONE SUPPLY BY HOSPITAL UNITS

### PURPOSE

NSW is participating in the Australian Government [Section 100 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) pilot](#) for subsidised supply of take home naloxone to people at risk of experiencing or witnessing opioid overdose. This Information Bulletin provides guidance to pharmacy departments, emergency departments (EDs), pain clinics and other hospital units wishing to supply PBS-subsidised naloxone for patients on discharge.

For supply of naloxone by 'credentialed health workers' in alcohol and other drugs and needle syringe program settings, please refer to NSW Health Policy Directive *Take Home Naloxone* ([PD2020\\_027](#)), Information Bulletin's *New Reporting Requirements for Opioid Overdose Response and Take Home Naloxone Intervention* ([IB2020\\_004](#)) and *Pharmacy Department Reimbursement and Data Collection During PBS-Subsidised Naloxone Pilot* ([IB2020\\_005](#)).

### KEY INFORMATION

The [National Health \(Take Home Naloxone Pilot\) Special Arrangement 2019](#) sets out legally mandated eligibility and reporting requirements that must be met by NSW hospital pharmacies wishing to access PBS-subsidised naloxone for supply to patients.

NSW hospital pharmacies can access PBS-subsidised naloxone products for 'take home' supply to eligible 'designated persons' during the pilot period. The naloxone must be supplied by a health worker who is authorised to supply Schedule 3 medicines.

#### Eligible designated persons

The *Special Arrangement* defines a 'designated person' as a person who is at risk of an opioid overdose or who is likely to be able to assist such a person.

Designated persons are eligible to be supplied with naloxone free (without co-payment) and without a PBS prescription by a NSW public hospital pharmacy, at the time of supply, if they are:

- a day admitted patient; or
- a non-admitted patient of the hospital; or
- a patient on discharge from the hospital; or
- a person who is not receiving treatment in or at the hospital (i.e. family/friends/carers of patients) who may witness an opioid overdose.

PBS-subsidised naloxone is for 'take home' supply. Naloxone administered in clinical settings (eg. when responding to opioid overdose presentations in the ED) is **not** subsidised through the pilot.

Hospital units are encouraged to develop local systems for identifying eligible designated persons, providing counselling and naloxone products if appropriate, and collecting and reporting data legally required for the PBS-subsidised pilot.

Patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain, post-operative patients discharged from hospital on opioids, people presenting to ED following overdose, and

family/friends/carers of such patients, are eligible designated persons and may benefit from take home naloxone.

### **Key responsibilities – health professionals**

The pilot does not authorise any new worker designations to supply naloxone, so existing models for prescribing/supply of scheduled medicines are to be followed. Naloxone must be supplied in accordance with the NSW Health Policy Directive *Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities* ([PD2013\\_043](#)).

The eligible designated person should be provided with appropriate counselling on opioid overdose prevention and recognition, and how to administer naloxone as part of an emergency response.

Nyxoid® and Prenoxad® are fit for purpose products for patients to administer if a suspected overdose occurs at home.

Under the PBS-subsidised pilot, a maximum of two units of Prenoxad®, or two units of Nyxoid®, or one of each product, can be supplied to the client on each occasion of service. There are no limits on the number of times an eligible person can receive naloxone.

Education tools for workers and patients developed for the [Take Home Naloxone program](#) operating in Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services and Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP) may provide useful guidance for workers and patients.

### **Key responsibilities – pharmacy departments**

If hospital teams wish to supply PBS-subsidised naloxone to eligible designated persons, their pharmacy department must register with the [Pharmacy Programs Administrator portal](#) (PPA portal) and make claims and enter intervention data as required. [Instructions](#) are available to pharmacy departments about how to register and enter data into the PPA portal.

### **Data collection and remuneration rates**

Under the *Special Arrangement*, the Australian Government requires that data is reported every month in the PPA portal about naloxone obtained through the PBS pilot that pharmacy departments and hospital units supply to eligible designated persons.

The rate of remuneration for PBS-subsidised pilot naloxone is dependent on the type of approved provider and the type of supply. An 'individual claim' will be submitted when naloxone has been given directly to an eligible designated person. The remuneration for an individual claim is the Price to Pharmacist (PTP). A bulk claim is made when naloxone stock has been provided as imprest to an Authorised Alternative Supplier (AAS), and the remuneration is the Approved Ex-Manufacturer Price (AEMP). The current rates of remuneration can be found in the [Take Home Naloxone Pilot Guidelines](#).

### **Individual supply claims**

When naloxone is provided directly to an eligible designated person identified in a hospital unit, the pharmacy department should submit a THN Pilot Individual Supply Claim in the PPA portal.

The pharmacy department must complete the following data fields in an Individual Supply Claim each time naloxone is supplied to an eligible designated person by a hospital unit:

- date of supply to designated person; and
- naloxone formulations and quantities supplied; and
- designation of health worker who supplied naloxone to patient

Data entry into the PPA portal may be completed by a pharmacy assistant.

### **Bulk supply claims**

If hospital units supply naloxone to eligible designated persons from imprest stock (for example in EDs), a bulk supply claim is to be submitted. In this situation, the pharmacy department and the relevant hospital unit are both required to enter data into the PPA Portal.

The pharmacy department enters the following information into the PPA Portal for reimbursement purposes:

- date of supply to hospital unit/s supplying from imprest; and
- formulations and quantities supplied; and
- hospital unit/s supplied.

A hospital unit supplying naloxone from imprest must become an Authorised Alternative Supplier (AAS) in order to supply PBS-subsidised naloxone. NSW Ministry of Health approves new AASs. Hospital units must email [MOH-Naloxone@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-Naloxone@health.nsw.gov.au) to request approval as an AAS.

Once approved by NSW Ministry of Health, the hospital unit can register for the PPA Portal and enter the following de-identified information for monitoring purposes about naloxone supply interventions from its imprest supply:

- date of supply to designated person; and
- formulations and quantities supplied; and
- designation of the worker who supplied the naloxone to the designated person.

[Click here](#) for guidance for AASs about using the PPA Portal, or contact [PPA support](#).

### **Evaluation**

An evaluation of the PBS pilot is planned. There will be some additional client information, consent and reporting requirements associated with the evaluation once ethics approval has been received. The PPA portal includes a client consent tick box to register if clients consent or otherwise to having de-identified information used for evaluation purposes. Until hospitals have been notified that ethics approvals are in place, consent should not be sought, and this box should be left unticked.

For further information in relation to the Australian Government pilot, see: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/take-home-naloxone-pilot>

For questions about the Australian Government naloxone pilot or take home naloxone in general, contact: [MOH-Naloxone@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-Naloxone@health.nsw.gov.au)