

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Distribution of Community Based Naloxone (CBN) Kits within AHS Settings

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1. Is there a policy for distributing naloxone kits within AHS?

- Yes, the *Distribution of Community Based Naloxone Kits* Policy permits trained AHS staff in all practice settings to distribute CBN program naloxone kits, without an authorized prescriber's order to persons at risk, their families and friends and to members of the public requesting a kit.
- This policy replaces the naloxone Directives for Community and Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres.
- Practice areas must register with the CBN program to become a distribution site and order naloxone kits for distribution.
- For more information about the CBN program visit www.ahs.ca/naloxone

2. What is the difference between Community Based Naloxone Program kit distribution and naloxone administration?

- CBN kit distribution is the act of providing a naloxone kit to an individual for future use. These are distributed to members of the public, persons at risk and their families and friends for use in case of opioid poisoning in the community.
- Naloxone administration is part of an immediate response to a suspected opioid poisoning. It involves giving naloxone medication to an individual via either intramuscular (IM) injection or intranasal spray after providing supportive care (i.e., activating a call for emergency support, opening the individual's airway and providing rescue breaths).

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3. Should my program or setting obtain Community Based Naloxone Kits for distribution to patients and members of the public?

- Individual AHS settings will assess the risks and needs of the patients and families they serve to determine whether it is appropriate to register and distribute kits through the CBN Program. AHS programs or settings that wish to distribute kits should establish a process with appropriate leadership approvals.
- For more information about the CBN program visit www.ahs.ca/naloxone

4. How does my program or setting get Community Based Naloxone Kits to distribute to patients or members of the public?

- Program areas will need to register with the CBN Program by visiting www.ahs.ca/naloxone and following the steps in the [Community Based Naloxone Program Distribution Site Manual](#) linked on the website. Once registered:
 - Sites that receive medications from AHS Pharmacy Services may order CBN Program Kits for distribution through AHS Pharmacy Services.
 - Sites that do not receive medications from AHS Pharmacy Services will need to order kits through the CBN Program website.

5. What training is needed to distribute the Community Based Naloxone Kits?

- All personnel distributing CBN kits shall complete the required AHS Community Based Naloxone e-learning module available on MyLearningLink (“Community Based Naloxone” e-Learning module).
- Staff should assess their competency and comfort level to provide training on poisoning prevention, recognition and response training. If further support and education is required, please speak with your clinical educator or manager.
- Other resources to support your learning such as FAQ, videos or support documents can be found on www.ahs.ca/naloxone.

6. Do I have to document in the health record that a kit was distributed? What if it is not a patient? Can I distribute to friends and family members of patients?

- If appropriate, document in the patient health record the distribution of a naloxone kit, the education provided and where applicable, additional assessments/interventions for other needs and referrals initiated.
- Publicly-funded (CBN Program) Naloxone Kits are available to any member of public who is at-risk of poisoning or overdose or likely to witness poisoning or overdose. Proof of risk is not required to receive a kit.

If a concerned member of the public wants to have a naloxone kit on hand to be able to help someone else, it is appropriate to provide them with one. Documentation is not

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required in this circumstance except to record the numbers of kits distributed as per the CBN program processes.

7. Where can I find more information about community distribution of naloxone kits?

- Members of the public can access naloxone kits from any registered CBN Program distribution site. A list of sites can be found on the AHS www.drugsafe.ca website.

8. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

- For practice questions, contact the AHS Health Professions Strategy and Practice, Professional Practice Consultation Services (PPCS): practice.consultation@ahs.ca
- For more information about naloxone, contact the AHS Harm Reduction Services Team at harm.reduction@ahs.ca

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