

Take Home Naloxone Program (Qld)

Information for HHS Hospital Pharmacies

Version 3: August 2023

Expanding access to Take Home Naloxone (THN)

Who is THN for?

As part of roll-out of the National THN Program, naloxone is being made available in Queensland for free for people who are at risk of, or who may witness an opioid overdose or adverse reaction (e.g., friends, family, community members). There is no cost to individuals nor prescription required. Naloxone is a lifesaving, fast acting, temporary, opioid antagonist (i.e., inhibits the action of opioids). There is no risk of misuse. In the event of an opioid overdose, emergency medical treatment is still required, even when naloxone has been administered.

What products are included under THN?

Under the THN program people can be supplied a maximum of two times the PBS quantity of naloxone per visit (there is no maximum on the number of visits as each one is entered as a separate supply claim in the Pharmacy Program Administrator (PPA) portal). The Naloxone products include:

| PRODUCT | MAXIMUM QUANTITY YOU CAN SUPPLY PER PERSON, PER VISIT FOR THN (2 units of product) |
|---|--|
| Nyxoid[®] intranasal spray 2 x 1 nasal sprays Brand: Mundipharma | 2 packs of 2 single use nasal sprays |
| Prenoxad[®] pre-filled syringe Brand: Phebra | 2 pre-filled syringes (2 packs of one syringe) |
| DBL Naloxone hydrochloride ampoules 5 x 1mL ampoules Brand: Pfizer | 10 ampoules (2 packs of 5 ampoules) |
| Naloxone hydrochloride ampoules 5 x 1 mL ampoules Brand: Juno | 10 ampoules (2 packs of 5 ampoules) |

What is the Department doing to expand access to THN?

The Department (QH) is working with key stakeholders and partners to expand existing access to THN by implementing the National THN Program in Queensland, noting this implementation:

- has been progressively rolled-out from November 2022 for *Authorised Alternative Suppliers (AAS)*
- must be delivered in line with National THN Program rules - see Rules and FAQs at <https://www.ppaonline.com.au/take-home-naloxone>

- also includes Approved Providers such as community pharmacies and some hospital pharmacies.

In addition, changes have been made to the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 from 1 July 2023, to streamline participation in the THN program.

Where is THN already available?

A list of Approved Providers registered for the THN Program with the PPA can be found at <https://www.ppaonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Registered-sites-for-Take-Home-Naloxone.pdf>

To search for locally registered THN providers within the PDF list, use the search function (Ctrl and F keys) to find by postcode or location.

How do HHS Hospital Pharmacies participate?

- As a Bulk Supplier to HHS AAS;
- As an AAS (non s94 HHS Hospital Pharmacy), or
- As an Approved Provider (s94 HHS Hospital Pharmacy)

HHS Hospital Pharmacies play an important role in supporting increased access to THN by:

- being a critical part of the supply chain (s94 Hospital Pharmacy) for naloxone between Central Pharmacy and HHS AAS (unless the AAS already has an account with CP), by:
 - engaging with AAS and ordering and paying for naloxone from Central Pharmacy (including widget and freight charges);
 - distributing naloxone to AAS free-of-charge for the medication, but including delivery/handling charges in line with routine business;
 - completing a Bulk Supply Claim through the PPA Portal for reimbursement of THN supplied to AAS (including required details)
- becoming an AAS (non s94 Hospital Pharmacy) and providing THN to individuals and/or their carers, friends and families in the hospital setting (e.g., for patients on discharge from emergency department or hospital wards and indicated at high risk of opioid overdose), noting
 - details of each AAS must be provided to THN@health.qld.gov.au to be forwarded on to the PPA for registration on the portal – see below for more details
 - AAS do not pay for naloxone and a Bulk Supply Claim is submitted by the supplier (e.g., Central Pharmacy or s94 HHS Hospital Pharmacy) with usual fees and charges applying (such as widget and freight);
 - AAS need to complete an Individual Supply Claim for data collection only via the PPA Portal as THN is provided to an individual.
- becoming an Approved Provider (s94 Hospital Pharmacy) and providing THN to the individuals and/or their carers, friends and family in the hospital setting, noting
 - Approved Provider registrations are managed directly through the PPA and include completing an Individual Supply Claim for reimbursement and data collection via the PPA Portal as THN is provided to an individual.

See also: PPA – Hospital Pharmacy Portal User Guide [Hospital-Pharmacy-Portal-User-Guide-Take-Home-Naloxone.pdf \(ppaonline.com.au\)](#)

Who are the HHS AAS and what are their responsibilities?

Examples of HHS services that may become AAS include:

- Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP)
- Specialist Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Services
- Emergency Departments, Drug and Alcohol Brief Intervention Teams, pain clinics
- Homeless Health Outreach Teams and Mental Health Services
- Offender Health Services or Prison Mental Health Services.

From 1 July 2023 every new AAS needs to:

Complete the [AAS site nomination template \(XLSX 19 kB\)](#) and submit to THN@health.qld.gov.au to be confirmed as a HHS AAS.

The details will be provided to the [Pharmacy Programs Administrator \(PPA\)](#) (the operators of the PPA portal on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care), to allow your organisation to:

- register for the portal; and
- submit details of THN given out

Participation in the national THN program requires adherence to the [THN program rules](#).

Any person that has completed training in how to recognise signs and symptoms of suspected opioid overdose and how to administer naloxone, can give out THN under the program.

- **Ensure staff** intending to give out THN have completed THN brief intervention training – available free of charge online: [Insight - Toolkits - Take Home Naloxone](#) and that an intervention is provided when giving out THN.

Is a general approval still required for our HHS?

No. The changes made on 1 July 2023 to the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 (MPMR) removed the need for a general approval. Current holders of general approvals do not need to reapply. HHS service sites only need to nominate and be confirmed as AAS (see above).

What are the other changes from the amendment?

The 1 July 2023 amendment to the MPMR provides a ‘low risk exemption’ for carrying out particular activities with S3 naloxone under the THN program, specifically:

- supplying stock of S3 naloxone for the THN program;
- appropriately qualified persons giving out doses of THN to patients, with brief instructions on how to recognise signs and symptoms of suspected opioid overdose and how to administer the THN being given out; and
- administering THN to a person.

This means that HHS Hospital Pharmacies may supply stock of naloxone to any AAS (public or private) under the program and then submit a *bulk supply claim*.

Who is 'appropriately qualified' to give out doses of THN?

Any person who has completed the THN training or a person who has the knowledge or experience from their professional qualification to recognise signs and symptoms of suspected opioid overdose and how to administer the THN being given out (e.g., registered nurses, pharmacists), can give out THN. Even with a professional qualification, all persons are encouraged to complete the free THN training [Insight - Toolkits - Take Home Naloxone](#).

Does THN have to be labelled with a dispensing label like other S3 medicines?

No. The exemption removes the anomaly that pharmacists had to label THN when giving out THN to patients.

Ordering THN

Central Pharmacy order codes for THN for HHS are as follows:

QC 816209 Naloxone (S19A) (Nyxoid) 1.8mg/0.1mL Nasal Spray

QC 816208 Naloxone (S19A) (Prenoxad) 1mg/mL 2mL prefilled syringe

Key contacts

Queensland Health

For general inquiries and questions:

- THN@health.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3708 5264.

Pharmacy Program Administrator

- Help with PPA Portal – 1800 951 285 or support@ppaonline.com.au