



# Northumberland County Council

To: Northumberland Community Pharmacies  
delivering Local Public Health Services -  
Needle Exchange Service

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**Date:** 27 April 2020

Dear Pharmacy Colleagues,

## **Needle Exchange Services and COVID-19 Pandemic Pharmacy Naloxone (Prenoxad) Supply Scheme**

As we continue a second period of 'lock down' and have recently received [PHE Guidance for Drug \(and Alcohol Services\)](#), this letter is to provide advice about needle exchange services and to seek your support to further protect patients accessing needle exchange services who use opiates by supplying naloxone (Prenoxad) during and after COVID-19 Pandemic.

People who use drugs are at an increased risk of unintentional overdose as a result of:

- The COVID-19 virus attacking the lungs and poor underlying respiratory and pulmonary health
- Greater challenges in being able to self isolate and follow PHE hygiene recommendations
- Effects of drug use and withdrawal masking the symptoms of COVID-19
- Interrupted drug supply resulting in varying purity, price fluctuations and increasing, poly drug use, this will
- People not in a drug treatment are at an even increased risk.

### **Needle Exchanges**

There may be situations where patients cannot access your pharmacy, however it is important that patients are still able to exchange their injecting equipment to reduce risks of infection transmission. If you have not done so already, please consider during the period of the Pandemic allowing your patients who can not access the pharmacy themselves to nominate another to exchange their equipment on their behalf. We also recommend that you consider creating a pre-prepared pack containing a week's worth of injecting equipment. With this in mind you may wish to consider ensuring you have sufficient stock levels for people to be taking increased amounts of equipment.

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## Naloxone (Prenoxad) Supply Service

A national priority is to widen the supply of Naloxone to those using opiates to prevent death from overdose.

Naloxone injection is a prescription only medicine (POM), which can be supplied without a prescription by persons employed or engaged in the provision of needle and syringe services, if they are commissioned by local authorities. **Arrangements are already in place via Northumberland Recovery Partnership (NRP) for patients on a prescription for opiate substitute therapy to access Naloxone, please continue to contact NRP about these patients.** We are inviting you to supply naloxone (Prenoxad) to patients **not in contact with NRP** who are accessing your pharmacy to exchange needles.

A fuller description of the service is provided on the attachment but in summary Naloxone (Prenoxad) can be supplied to:

- an individual currently, or with a history of, using opioids
- a carer, family member or friend liable to be on hand in case of overdose

We would like the intervention to include:

- Explaining and supplying the Prenoxad Patient Information Leaflet (Attached)
- Supplying A 5 Steps to Save A Life Leaflet (Attached)
- Confirming that the information is understood by the patient and answering questions
- Completion of a Naloxone (Prenoxad) Patient Supply Form (Attached)
- Supplying a Naloxone (Prenoxad) kit (PIP codes for Prenoxad 1mg/ml injection (Naloxone Hydrochloride)
  - AAH: PRE1395U
  - Alliance: 3797131
- Inviting the patient to contact you if they have further questions.

## Training

Pharmacies taking part should have accessed the five, three minute training videos <http://www.prenoxadinjection.com/hcp/how-to.html> and be familiar with the attachments.

## Payment

We would like to offer the following payment for this service:

- Once the pharmacist lead completes a training declaration on the LPHS Portal a fee of £50 will be triggered.
- On first supply of Naloxone (Prenoxad), pharmacies will receive a payment for the Drug Tariff (currently £16.80) plus £15 for the consultation.

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- On re-supply of Naloxone (Prenoxad) pharmacies will receive a payment for the wholesale product cost (currently £16.80) plus £5 for the consultation (as patient will already be familiar with the product)

Data should be submitted on the electronic record form provided within the LPHS Portal Commissioning Portal; this will be a web based individual record form. The web form should be uploaded as it is completed with final notification of the month's total upload completed by 5th of the month. Uploading the electronic records will trigger the appropriate payments. A Naloxone Submission User Guide is enclosed.

We propose initially operating this scheme until the 31st July where it will be reviewed, please confirm by email to [publichealth@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@northumberland.gov.uk). if you wish to deliver the scheme. Please note that If you accept this offer then the terms and conditions attaching to the LPHS Contract for 20/21 will automatically apply.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns about the wellbeing of individuals accessing the needle exchange service and require further advice please contact NRP.

If you have any further questions please contact us directly or via the LPC.

Finally, we appreciate these are unusual circumstances and thank you for your commitment to keep services operating for this vulnerable group of patients.

Please feel free to contact any any of us directly:

- For questions about the scheme contact Public Health: [publichealth@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@northumberland.gov.uk) or [judith.keepin@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:judith.keepin@northumberland.gov.uk)
- For questions about using the portal contact Northumberland IT Services on [is\\_servicedesk@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:is_servicedesk@northumberland.gov.uk) Telephone: 01670 627004
- For concerns or advice about a patient contact NRP Single Point of Contact: 01670 798200

Yours sincerely



Senior Public Health Manager, Drug and Alcohol Portfolio  
Northumberland Public Health

Enclosures:

1. COVID-19 Pandemic Pharmacy Naloxone (Prenoxad) Supply Scheme Briefing
2. Naloxone Prenoxad Patient Information Leaflet
3. 5 Steps to Save a Life Northumberland
4. Naloxone submission user guide
5. Supply of naloxone (Prenoxad) Patient Supply Form

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# COVID-19 Pandemic Pharmacy Naloxone (Prenoxad) Supply Scheme Briefing

## 1.0 What is naloxone?

Naloxone is an emergency antidote to opioid overdose. In the event of a suspected opioid overdose naloxone can temporarily reverse the life-threatening effects of an overdose of opioids such as depressed breathing, for approximately 20-30 minutes. Naloxone itself has no psychoactive properties and so has no intoxicating effects or misuse potential.

Only Prenoxad injection is licensed specifically for use in the community and comes in a pre-filled syringe containing 5 marked doses of 0.4ml micrograms.

The recommended intramuscular dose is 0.4mls micrograms initially, with further 0.4mls doses given incrementally every 2-3 minutes until an effect is noted or the ambulance arrives.

Summary of product characteristics available at:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/3054/smpc>

## 2.0 Description of the service:

Naloxone (Prenoxad) can be supplied if a person resides in Northumberland, is aged 18 and over and is either:

- an individual currently, or with a history of, using opioids, or:
- a carer, family member, or friend liable to be on hand in case of overdose.
- Has been assessed by a health care professional as competent to administer naloxone in the appropriate circumstances, i.e. a basic awareness of opioid overdose, basic life-support and naloxone use.

Under the Regulations, it is legal for a drug service to provide a family member / friend / carer of an opioid user with naloxone without the express permission of the individual who is using the opioid, if it is being supplied to save life in an emergency.

Consider asking the family member / friend / carer if they intend informing the individual at risk of opioid overdose that they have a supply of naloxone injection. However, balance this against the fact that legally a 3rd party supply can be made to save a life in an emergency and that naloxone has a good safety profile when administered in the doses contained in Prenoxad injection (i.e. administering a relatively small dose of naloxone, then providing further small doses as needed in a graduated manner).

## 2.1 Exclusion criteria

- Persons under the age of 18 years of age.

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- Persons unable to demonstrate sufficient knowledge on the use of naloxone (Prenoxad) to be safely given a supply.
- Persons who have not consented to receiving a supply.
- Where the individual at risk has a known allergy to naloxone.

## 2.2 Pharmacy Responsibilities

- To have a designated lead pharmacist at the pharmacy who will be responsible for the day to day running of this service and ensure all locums are informed.
- To ensure that the appropriate indemnity arrangements are in place.
- To have undertaken the necessary training to provide new supplies of naloxone (Prenoxad) and ensure that all pharmacy staff are aware of how to counsel people requesting naloxone (Prenoxad), the necessary paperwork to complete, and the data entry requirements. (It does not need to be the Pharmacist who delivers the intervention.
- The pharmacy has a supply of Prenoxad Patient Information Leaflet, The 5 Steps to Save a Life Leaflet (2 sided) and the Supply of naloxone (Prenoxad) patient record
- To promptly enter data onto the portal once each naloxone (Prenoxad) supply is made or once each FP10(MDA) is complete.

## 2.3 Pharmacy Responsibilities to Client

- Ensure that the person requesting the supply is 18 years of age or over, and resides In Northumberland, or is a carer for the person requesting supply. .
- Naloxone (Prenoxad) injection may only be made available once the health care professional supplying it has assessed the suitability and competence of that person to administer naloxone (Prenoxad) in the appropriate circumstances, i.e. all people receiving a supply of naloxone (Prenoxad) must be able to demonstrate a basic awareness of opioid overdose, basic life-support and naloxone use.
- Has no known allergies to naloxone.

## 2.4 The intervention

### First time supply

- Explaining how to use the Prenoxad kit, (using Prenoxad Patient Information Leaflet)
- Supplying the patient with the Prenoxad Patient Information Leaflet.
- Supplying 5 Steps to Save A Life Leaflet
- Confirming that the information is understood by the patient and answering any questions
- Completion of a Supply of Naloxone (Prenoxad) Patient Supply Record
- Supplying a Naloxone (Prenoxad) kit (PIP codes for Prenoxad 1mg/ml injection (Naloxone Hydrochloride)
  - AAH: PRE1395U
  - Alliance: 3797131
- Inviting the patient to contact you if they have further questions.

### Re-supply

- After receiving confirmation that patient is familiar with use of the Prenoxad kit
- Completion of Supply of Naloxone (Prenoxad) Patient Record

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  - AAH: PRE1395U
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## 2.5 Recording information

All relevant details should be recorded on the customer naloxone supply record and data submitted via the LPHS Portal in order to trigger payments.

## 3.0 Training

Training and competence should be declared by a lead pharmacist upon completion of a local Declaration which will become mandatory to complete before any further data entries. A lead pharmacist should be assured that all staff (including support staff and locum pharmacists) are adequately trained to meet the requirements of the service at all times.

All pharmacy staff involved in the service are expected to be aware of how to counsel people requesting naloxone (Prenoxad), the necessary paperwork to complete, and the data entry requirements.

### 3.1 Mandatory Training

Pharmacist mandatory training includes:

1. Familiarisation with the Naloxone (Prenoxad) Patient Information Leaflet, 5 Steps to save a Life Leaflet and Supply of naloxone (Prenoxad) Patient Record
2. View the following How to videos, (each is approximately 3 minutes long)
  - [www.prenoxadInjection.com/drug/how-to.html](http://www.prenoxadInjection.com/drug/how-to.html)
    1. How to respond when someone is unconscious and unresponsive
    2. How to respond to suspected opioid overdose
    3. How to put someone into the recovery position
    4. **Do not use How to perform CPR video as this includes use of rescue breaths, replace with <https://youtu.be/f4ZI1PAsmks> from the Resuscitation Council UK**
    5. How to inject Prenoxad Injection

### 3.2 Optional Training

- CPPE endorsed 'Naloxone saves lives' e-assessment at [www.smmgp-elearning.org.uk/](http://www.smmgp-elearning.org.uk/) which will enable the pharmacist to:
  - Understand drug related deaths and risks, and how to recognise the signs and symptoms of an overdose
  - Know what to do and what not to do in the event of an overdose
  - Be aware of what naloxone is and how it can help
  - Be familiar with naloxone provision in the UK
  - Understand the importance of training people in the use of naloxone and what should be included in training

The notional learning time is 1 hour. On completion a Certificate of Completion is issued.

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- The Harm Reduction Works website at [www.harmreductionworks.org.uk/2\\_films/overdose\\_and\\_naloxone.html](http://www.harmreductionworks.org.uk/2_films/overdose_and_naloxone.html) This video is 13 minutes long and provides an excellent overview of the symptoms of opioid overdose and how to manage the whole situation (Note however that the naloxone injection used in this video is not Prenoxad).

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