

Workplace naloxone: information for pharmacy teams

Alberta's Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction is enabling more workers to purchase and administer naloxone in workplaces for use in opioid overdose. Information is now being provided for pharmacies that choose to participate by ordering naloxone kits for sale specific to workplace employees.

The Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, by way of Ministerial Order, is enabling more workers to administer injectable naloxone for opioid overdose as part of their job duties, provided the employer and worker comply with requirements established by the Government of Alberta. Details can be seen here: alberta.ca/workers-administering-injectable-naloxone.aspx.

This expands the availability of naloxone for the public beyond the existing Take Home Naloxone program described by Benefacts 575, 612, 672 and 715. For clarity, the existing Take Home Naloxone program remains in existence to provide Take Home Naloxone kits to individuals for personal use or to support an individual.

Previously, the only workers who could administer injectable naloxone as part of their job duties were authorized regulated health professionals, police officers, peace officers, firefighters and supervised consumption services staff.

Expanding this authority empowers more people to take action and save lives if they witness an opioid overdose.

Bystanders continue to be able to administer injectable naloxone if no authorized individual is present.

This new Ministerial Order allows workplaces to legally purchase and stock injectable naloxone kits as they would any other safety supply. Workplaces may include, but are not limited to:

- social agencies,
- shelters for the unhoused,
- residential treatment facilities,
- charitable organizations,
- businesses and more.

Provision of purchased naloxone kits for workplaces bought from pharmacies

Workplaces are being informed that naloxone kits are now available to order and purchase through participating pharmacies. Pharmacy participation is optional. Ordering information follows below.

Pharmacies may be contacted by workplaces inquiring if they can purchase naloxone kits for use in the workplace.

Pharmacies may order naloxone kits from distributors, then sell to workplaces as per usual and customary retail practices.

Workplaces are expected to cover the full costs associated with the purchase of naloxone kits as they would any other safety supply item. There is no additional government funding supporting the purchase or distribution of these naloxone kits available to pharmacies.

This new program is separate from the existing Take Home Naloxone program, which is fully subsidized for individuals using naloxone for personal use.

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Pharmacies are not expected to stock naloxone kits for workplaces. Instead, they can be ordered on a request basis for pickup at a later date.

Workplaces are expected to dispose of their own sharps as part of their procedures. A sharps container may be sold to them at retail pricing.

Ordering intramuscular naloxone for workplaces

McKesson Canada has an intramuscular naloxone kit available to order through PharmaClick. It is identical to the black kits distributed through the Take Home Naloxone program, but it comes in **a red case for workplace use**.

Item	Vendor	Description	Vendor Item	Case Qty	UNIT UPC	PACK UPC	Case UPC	Modality
177167	30403	AB NALOXONE WORKPLACE KT/DR1	NKV13ABWRK	100	680977100059		1068097710056	U

Pharmacies that purchase these kits from McKesson Canada will be invoiced \$30 for each kit purchased.

McKesson Canada has an initial limited supply of available kits, but will be able to place additional orders based on pharmacy demand. **Please note, it may take up to 10 days to fulfil a workplace order placed through a community pharmacy.**

Pharmacies may be able to order other naloxone kits from different providers other than McKesson Canada as well.

Training

Pharmacy team members are not expected to train or provide training for individuals who purchase naloxone on behalf of workplaces. Workplaces are expected to ensure their workers are adequately trained before authorizing them to purchase and administer intramuscular naloxone kits.

An e-learning module was developed by Alberta Health Services (AHS) for workers: <https://www.alberta.ca/workers-administering-injectable-naloxone.aspx>.

Distinction between Naloxone for Workplaces and the free Take Home Naloxone program

Naloxone for Workplaces (RED KIT from McKesson Canada)	Take Home Naloxone program (BLACK KIT from McKesson Canada)
For use by workers in a workplace as part of their job duties	For personal use or as a bystander
No government subsidies, retail pricing applies	Fully subsidized (free to individuals)
No claim submission to Alberta Blue Cross, no data collection	Eligible for claim submission to Alberta Blue Cross with a \$12.15 fee
No training provided by the pharmacy team	Training provided by the pharmacy team

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PHARMACY BENEFACT

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If a workplace requests to pick up kits from the Workplace Take Home Naloxone program, the following actions are recommended:

- Post signs that workplaces can order and purchase naloxone at this pharmacy.
- Individuals purchasing naloxone on behalf of a workplace are expected to self-identify, but their names will not be recorded.
- Pharmacy team members are not expected to make the determination of which program is appropriate or if the business qualifies.

Nasal naloxone

Nasal naloxone has always been allowed in workplaces for administration to workers. While nasal naloxone may be more expensive than injectable naloxone kits, workplaces may find nasal naloxone easier to use as it does not require the use or disposal of needles.

Nasal naloxone can be purchased and supplied through pharmacy wholesalers for resale to workplaces or acquired directly from Emergent BioSolutions: [NARCAN® Nasal Spray 4mg \(narcannasalspray.ca\)](https://www.narcannasalspray.ca)

For full details about Naloxone for Workplaces in Alberta, go to alberta.ca/workers-administering-injectable-naloxone.aspx.

Any questions about Naloxone for Workplaces in Alberta can be directed by email to albertaaddictionandmentalhealth@gov.ab.ca.

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 ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

