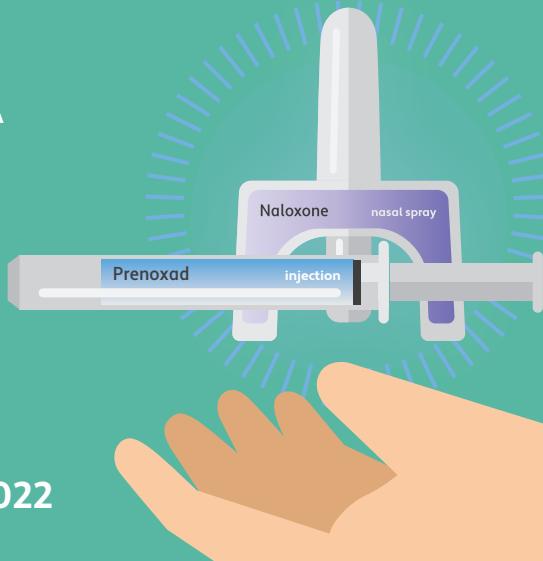


Naloxone in WA

Naloxone is available FREE to customers of pharmacies who participate in the Commonwealth Take-Home-Naloxone Pilot. Pharmacists are remunerated for OTC supply with a dispensing fee.

THN Pilot now extended to June 30, 2022



Naloxone should be offered to **every person** who is **prescribed opioids** and those who may **witness** opioid **overdose**.



Keeping naloxone in your home is like having a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, you hope you never need it but it is there just in case.

Did you know...?



Naloxone is a first aid medicine, just like an Epipen. Naloxone is available in a preloaded injectable and a nasal spray device



50% of prescription opioid overdoses involve people with chronic pain



Naloxone is safe, effective and does not increase drug use or risk taking behaviour



Naloxone is included in the triple zero (000) protocol. Any person will be advised by 000 to use naloxone when responding to overdose

Five simple steps to order naloxone and be reimbursed

1. Register for the Take-Home Naloxone Pilot through PPA website
2. Order naloxone through your wholesaler
3. Discuss and offer naloxone to the customer
4. Supply naloxone and provide brief education and resources
5. Enter data and claim payment through PPA portal



Naloxone should be offered to every person who is:

- Dispensed an opioid prescription
- Pain patients on S8 opioids for more than two weeks
- CPOP patients
- Fit-pack purchasing customers
- People who might witness overdose in their work, community, family
- Peers, family, friends of any of the above

Who should I talk to about naloxone?

Some people are familiar with the term overdose, some may prefer accidentally take too much...



Initiate the conversation

Your medicine has some potential side effects which can be severe, including making you very drowsy and stopping you breathing.

There are some risks associated with your medication that may require first aid.

Can I talk to you about how to keep safe while taking opioid medication and how to keep your family safe if you have opioid medication in the home?

Accidentally taking too much medication or forgetting you have taken your medication can easily happen. Having naloxone at home can prevent opioid overdose deaths and harms.

Remember this opioid medication can make you drowsy or sedated. Please do not drive or operate heavy machinery. I need to talk to you about naloxone as this can reverse accidental overdose.



Patients may not be aware of the risk with:

- Forgetting to remove a patch before applying the next one
- Taking too much medication
- Interactions between pain medicines (including patches) and sleeping pills or other sedating medicines
- Using pain medicines with alcohol and other drugs

Patients are relying on your advice

Normalising the conversation around naloxone for ALL people being dispensed opioid medication, can make it easier to raise the topic and keeps it simple.

New APF recommendations for opioid medication labels include:

1. Label 24 to be added to all dispensed opioid preparations 'Use of this medicine has the risk of overdose and dependence'
2. Provide opioid PI, page 291
3. Consider THN supply to patients (see page 206) for pharmacist information on the use of naloxone in the event of overdose

Education points

1. Recognise (signs for when naloxone is required)

- A) Unresponsive, or heavily sedated, body is limp/slumped posture
- B) Snoring or gurgling noises (sounds just like sleep apnoea)
- C) Irregular, shallow or no breathing
- D) Appearance changes: small pupils, grey/blue lips, cold clammy skin



2. Respond

- A) Call 000 (do not hang up, 000 will talk you through how to give naloxone)
- B) Administer naloxone (see packet insert or fold out Recognise & Respond card for simple steps)
- C) Stay with person
- D) Administer a second dose, if no response in two to three minutes (you can give more naloxone at any time) and if still no response start CPR



3. Prevention

- A) Make a note of when you took your medication as it is easy to forget
- B) Avoid mixing your pain medication with other medications such as opioid patches and alcohol and other drugs
- C) Speak to your Doctor or Pharmacist if you are unsure of medication and alcohol and drug interactions
- D) Contact your Doctor or Pharmacist if you are still in pain before taking more medication



The Commonwealth THN Pilot has been extended to June 30, 2022. Please email naloxone@mhc.wa.gov.au for support, any questions and free hard resources, (which can also be used as a brief education tool), to provide to customers when you dispense naloxone.

Naloxone saves lives



Government of Western Australia
Mental Health Commission