

***UPDATED* Questions and Answers Document: Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies**

Effective **February 9, 2024**

Pharmacies participating in the Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies (ONPP) **must** review and be familiar with Executive Officer (EO) Notice materials that includes the EO Notice and this Questions and Answers (“Qs and As”) document “the Materials”).

For Health Network System (HNS) claim submission issues, pharmacy staff may contact the ministry’s Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program help desk and refer to the [Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual](#).

For other inquiries relating to the ONPP, please send an email to the ministry mailbox at PublicDrugPrgms.moh@ontario.ca.

The Materials set out the terms and conditions for a participating pharmacy’s submission of claims for payment (Claims) for providing publicly funded naloxone kits to eligible Ontarians. Each document is a ministry policy that pharmacy operators must comply with under section 3.2. of the HNS Subscription Agreement for Pharmacy Operators.

Pharmacy Eligibility

1. Is there a sign-up process for pharmacies to complete for the ONPP through the ministry?

No, there is no sign-up process for pharmacies under ONPP. Pharmacies must have an HNS Subscription Agreement with the ministry.

Pharmacies interested in participating **must** ensure their staff review the Materials and comply with them.

2. What training is required for pharmacists regarding distribution of naloxone kits under the ONPP?

As with any pharmacy service, it is the pharmacist’s professional responsibility to ensure they have undergone the appropriate training and have the required skills and resources to ensure the service is provided in a safe and effective manner. The Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) has available resources on their [OPA website](#) relating to naloxone.

Pharmacies should continue to refer to the requirements outlined in the [Ontario College of Pharmacists Guidance – Dispensing, Selling or Providing Naloxone](#) regarding provision of naloxone.

Recipient Eligibility

3. When can a pharmacist provide a publicly funded naloxone kit to an eligible person?

Publicly funded naloxone kits are to be provided in pharmacy based on need and clinical appropriateness, subject to any restrictions set out in the EO Notice.

When a person enquires about getting a naloxone kit, the pharmacist must ensure the person meets the eligibility criteria under the ONPP and provides proper training before providing a kit in pharmacy.

4. Can naloxone kits be provided to individuals who are from First Nations communities under the ONPP?

Yes, naloxone kits can be distributed to individuals in pharmacy (including training as applicable) who are and/or identify as being from First Nations communities provided they meet ONPP eligibility requirements.

5. How can an eligible recipient without an Ontario health card number obtain a naloxone kit from a pharmacy?

Reasonable efforts should be made to obtain an Ontario health card number when providing a naloxone kit. Pharmacists are expected to ask for an Ontario health card when providing naloxone kits to eligible individuals.

However, should the eligible individual **not** have an Ontario health card or choose not to present it, pharmacists can still provide a naloxone kit based on their professional judgement.

Eligible recipients can also obtain publicly funded naloxone kits without an Ontario health card from community-based organizations such as needle syringe and Hepatitis C programs under the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP) provided the eligibility criteria are met.

6. Are first responders eligible to receive naloxone kits under the ONPP?

No. First responders (paramedics, firefighters, police officers) acting in their capacity as a first responder, and/or individuals acting on behalf of first responders or their

organizations, must be directed to their own organizations to inquire about naloxone kits and access to supply. This includes requests for large quantities of naloxone kits. There may be other channels (e.g., public health units, community-based organizations) for publicly funded naloxone kits available for first responders.

7. Are businesses, health care organizations, or people acting on behalf of businesses/organizations eligible to receive naloxone kits under the ONPP?

No. Businesses (e.g., restaurants, retail stores, gyms, etc.) and health care organizations (e.g., hospitals, clinics, hospices, congregate settings, certain non-profits, etc.) and/or people acting on behalf of these organizations must be directed to their own organizations to inquire about naloxone kits and access to supply. A business and/or organization, and/or a person acting on behalf of a business and/or organization, does **not** qualify as an eligible individual under the ONPP.

The ONPP remains targeted to individuals at risk and their families and friends, and is **not** intended to provide naloxone kits to employers or for occupational safety purposes.

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) requires that naloxone be available in some workplaces in case a worker has an opioid overdose. For a limited time, those employers can get free naloxone training and nasal spray naloxone kits through Ontario's the Workplace Naloxone Program. Please contact preventionfeedback@ontario.ca for related inquiries.

- Inquiries related to the OHSA requirements should be directed to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) at WebHSPolicy@ontario.ca.

8. Can naloxone kits be provided for veterinary purposes?

Naloxone kits provided for veterinary purposes are **not** eligible for reimbursement under ONPP.

Restrictions:

9. How many naloxone kits can be provided to an eligible recipient at one-time? Are there exceptions to the restrictions relating to the distribution of naloxone kits under ONPP?

Please refer to the EO Notice for details on eligibility, claim limits, and billing procedure.