

Take Home Naloxone Program (Qld)

Information for Non-Government Organisations (NGO)

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 the THN program?

The national THN program is administered via the Pharmacy Program Administrator (PPA) portal. 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 in the PPA portal).

The naloxone products and quantities are listed below:

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

What is the Department doing to expand access to THN?

Queensland Health (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 services 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.

What's the difference between an Approved Provider and AAS?

Participating sites providing THN to individuals are defined as either an *Approved Provider* (Stage 1 of program from July 2022, including community pharmacies and some hospitals and medical practitioners) or as an *AAS –including NGO service providers in Queensland* (Stage 2 of program from November 2022).

Eligibility to take part in the THN Program requires providers to meet a set of criteria that are specific to each provider-type – see program rules: <https://www.ppaonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Take-Home-Naloxone-Program-Rules.pdf>

How do Queensland NGO service providers participate as AAS?

NGO service providers, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health services that deliver the following services are identified as an initial priority for implementation of THN as AAS:

- Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP)
- Specialist Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment services
- Housing and homelessness outreach teams and mental health services.

From 1 July 2023, any NGO's that wish to participate as AAS need to:

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

Your 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 to participate?

No. The changes made on 1 July 2023 to the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021* removed the need for a general approval. Current holders of general approvals do not need to reapply. To add any additional AAS sites, complete the [AAS site nomination template \(XLSX 19 kB\)](#) and submit to THN@health.qld.gov.au to be confirmed as an AAS.

What information do I need to provide as an AAS to the PPA?

Participating AAS need to (via the PPA Portal):

- submit a Program Registration to create an AAS Portal account (please use same AAS names as on spreadsheet provided to THN@health.qld.gov.au);
 - this includes identifying a key contact/primary user for your AAS
 - additional AAS can be added at any time
 - the AAS key contact/primary user can add other uses across the AAS at any time
- submit data on supply of naloxone to individuals, called Individual Supply Claim Data.

Individual supply claim data - AAS (once registered with the PPA) need to upload data about supply of THN to individuals as part of THN Program Rules and to assist in monitoring the program by the Commonwealth Government and QH. This should be done following supply to an individual or **no later than 5 working days**. Data only is submitted by AAS. AAS do not claim for cost of naloxone under the THN Program as they will receive the product at no cost from a supplier e.g., Queensland Health's Central Pharmacy (noting a freight and handling charge may be applied). Please note – the PPA has retained use of the term 'claim' as the Portal was designed as a claiming platform for a range of other pharmacy programs – but for the THN Program – data uploaded and collected here is for monitoring each instance naloxone is supplied to an individual by an AAS.

How do AAS get access to naloxone to supply to individuals?

With the 1 July 2023 amendment to the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021*, AAS may now obtain THN stock from a wholesale supplier, such as QH's Central Pharmacy, or from a pharmacy – the medication will be provided free (and the supplier will submit a reimbursement claim with the PPA) – but there may be a charge for handling and freight.

Key contacts

Queensland Health: For general inquiries and questions email THN@health.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3708 5264.

Pharmacy Program Administrator: PPA Portal call 1800 951 285 or support@ppaonline.com.au.