

# Take Home Naloxone Program (Qld)

## Information for Hospital and Health Service (HHS)

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 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. Participants in the THN program can supply 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)
<b>Nyxoid<sup>®</sup> intranasal spray</b> 2 x 1 nasal sprays per pack Brand: Mundipharma	2 packs of 2 single use nasal sprays
<b>Prenoxad<sup>®</sup> pre-filled syringe</b> 1 x pre-filled syringe per pack Brand: Phebra	2 packs of one pre-filled syringe
<b>DBL Naloxone hydrochloride ampoules</b> 5 x 1mL ampoules per pack Brand: Pfizer	2 packs of 5 ampoules
<b>Naloxone hydrochloride ampoules</b> 5 x 1 mL ampoules per pack Brand: Juno	2 packs of 5 ampoules

## What is the Department doing to expand access to THN?

The Department 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 sites 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 (including s90 community pharmacies and s94 hospital pharmacies and s92 medical practitioners) or as an AAS – including non-pharmacy service providers in Queensland.

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 HHS service providers participate?

Key and priority HHS services include:

- Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP)
- Specialist Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Services
- Offender Health Services
- Emergency Departments, Drug and Alcohol Brief Intervention Teams, pain clinics
- Homeless Health Outreach Teams and Mental Health Services and outreach teams

**From 1 July 2023 every new AAS needs to:**

Complete the [AAS site nomination template \(XLSX 19 kB\)](#) and submit to [THN@health.qld.gov.au](mailto: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
- make claims for reimbursement (for s90 community pharmacies and s94 hospital pharmacies only).

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?

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.

## 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](mailto:THN@health.qld.gov.au));
  - this includes identifying a key contact/primary user for your AAS
  - additional AAS sites 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 – each 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 but no later than 5 working days.

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 and includes information about each instance naloxone was supplied to an individual by an AAS.

## How do HHS AAS get access to naloxone to supply to individuals? What does it cost?

HHS AAS will not be charged for the cost of naloxone medication as part of the National THN Program but will be subject to usual fees and charges by ordering through HHS Hospital Pharmacies or Central Pharmacy.

Typically, HHS Hospital Pharmacies will order and pay for naloxone medications on behalf of HHS AAS through Central Pharmacy (wholesaler) and submit a *Bulk Supply Claim* to the PPA for reimbursement of naloxone – including details of provision of THN to an HHS AAS. For those AAS that already have a direct account with Central Pharmacy, then Central Pharmacy can supply directly and submit the *Bulk Supply Claim*. However, contact Central Pharmacy to discuss prior to ordering. Regardless of supply route, AAS do not receive payment for supply of naloxone under the THN Program.

**For HHS AAS that do not already have an account established with Central Pharmacy, please contact your local hospital pharmacy to arrange supply.**

For AAS that already have established accounts only, the Central Pharmacy order codes are as follows:

QC 816205 Naloxone (S19A) (Nyxoid) 1.8mg/0.1mL Nasal Spray

QC 816204 Naloxone (S19A) (Prenoxad) 1mg/mL 2mL prefilled syringe

## Key contacts

### Queensland Health

For general inquiries and questions:

- [THN@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:THN@health.qld.gov.au) or call (07) 3708 5264.

### Pharmacy Program Administrator

- Help with PPA Portal – 1800 951 285 or [support@ppaonline.com.au](mailto:support@ppaonline.com.au)