

Dear Colleague

ADDITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES – PAYMENT FOR FORTHCOMING NALOXONE ACCESS SERVICE

Summary

1. This Circular advises Health Boards and community pharmacy contractors of a new naloxone service to be implemented in community pharmacies later this year, preparation work that will be required and a payment for associated costs.

Background

2. The [Drug Death Taskforce report](#) published in July 2022 contains the following action: *All community pharmacies should hold naloxone for administration in an emergency and should be able to supply THN to people who use drugs, families and anyone likely to witness an opioid overdose.*

3. By holding a supply of naloxone, the community pharmacy network will support increased access so that it can be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Details

4. The Scottish Government and Community Pharmacy Scotland have agreed that a new national service will be implemented to provide emergency access to a supply of naloxone.

5. Further details and a service specification will be issued in coming months with the service expected to be introduced in Autumn 2023.

24 May 2023

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

NHS Directors of Pharmacy
Director of Practitioner
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Payment for preparatory work

6. Funding will be issued to community pharmacy contractors in March 2023 payments, paid May 2023 so that preparatory work can begin ahead of the service formally commencing.
7. A payment of £240 will be paid to each community pharmacy contractor on the pharmaceutical list as of 1 March 2023.
8. Any contractor in receipt of the payment who subsequently withdraws from the pharmaceutical list before the naloxone access service commences will be required to return the payment.
9. The payment is to be used only for the following purposes:
 - A contribution towards training which pharmacy teams will be required to undertake – further details on training will be shared separately.
 - Purchase of **two** naloxone kits by each pharmacy contractor to be held for emergency use. Further details on the replacement of any naloxone kits that are issued will follow in a subsequent Circular.

Stock - Product choice

10. Two naloxone products are currently licensed in the UK for administration in non-clinical settings. It is important that one of these branded products is selected for emergency holding in pharmacies, as generic versions of naloxone injection do not contain needles for administration.

Product	
Prenoxad 2mg/2ml Pre-filled Syringe for Intramuscular Injection	First line option
Nyxioid 1.8mg intra-nasal spray	Second line option

11. The content of this Circular has been agreed with Community Pharmacy Scotland.

Action

12. Health Boards are asked to note the contents of this Circular and to bring it to the attention of community pharmacy contractors on their Pharmaceutical Lists, Health and Social Care Partnerships and Area Pharmaceutical Committees.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Strath
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer