

Factsheet SCOTLAND

This factsheet is part of the EMCDDA [Take-home naloxone – topic overview](#)

General information	Geographical coverage	Scotland
	Type of Intervention	Regular Scottish Government sponsored programme (ended in 2017) but ongoing nation-wide coverage of take-home naloxone through local health boards/Alcohol and Drug Partnerships
	Starting year	2011
	Settings	* community settings * prison

Regulatory challenges	Prescription	<p>Since new regulations entered into force in 2015, drug treatment service providers can order naloxone from a wholesaler so that people engaged or employed in their services can, as part of their role, supply naloxone without prescription to those who need it. The naloxone supplied this way is expected to be used in the case of a suspected heroin (or other opioid) overdose to try and save a life.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19, the Lord Advocate provided a 'statement of prosecution policy' to temporarily allow non drug treatment services to supply naloxone to those in contact with their services to expand distribution (ie. Homeless services, criminal justice, family support)</p>
	Distribution	<p>Naloxone could be supplied to any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * people who use opioids * outreach worker * hostel manager * a carer, a friend, or a family member of a drug user at risk * any individual working in an environment where it is considered there is a risk of opioid overdose, e.g. prison staff, police.
	Administration	<p>Although the new regulations do not allow individuals who have been lawfully supplied with naloxone to hand it over to others for possible future use, in an emergency situation any member of the public can use available naloxone to save a life.</p>
	Barriers	<p>The temporary relaxation from the Lord Advocate needs to be a permanent change. Work is underway to try to amend UK regulations to encompass this.</p>

Medication	Product used	Prenoxad® / Nyxoid
	Application	* injecting (IM) / intranasal (IN)
	Content of THN Kit	* pre-filled 2ml syringe with needles (Prenoxad®) Two intranasal devices (only in a small number of health boards)
	Number of doses per kit	<i>IM - 5 doses of 0.4mg/0.4ml naloxone hydrochloride/ each intranasal device contains 1.8mg/0.1ml</i>

Distribution, refill and post-training monitoring	Distribution of THN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * on-site at low threshold agencies * to clients of OST programmes * in prison setting/on release * in pharmacies * by prescription * <i>peer to peer</i> * delivery service by post * by paramedics who attend near-fatal overdoses
	Mandatory training	Yes
	Content of training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * recognising overdose symptoms * basic life support * effects of naloxone * application of naloxone * aftercare procedures

		* how to store naloxone * legal aspects
	Training format	* brief training in low-threshold or waiting settings (up to 15 min.) * THN-training is part of a general overdose-management training * refresh sessions provided (<i>on request</i>) * <i>free e-learning course from Scottish Drugs Forum</i>
	Content of questionnaire for refill	* reason for re-fill * description of the drug emergency/ situation * ambulance involved * outcome of emergency
	Post-training monitoring	* interview or questionnaire when THN programme client returns for re-fill * independent evaluation, cohort study

Performance and resources	Inception and training development	N/A	
	Implementation and monitoring	Annual monitoring report detailing: *kits supplied by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting • Locality • type (first supply or repeat) • Recipient • Age • Gender • Reach (kits per capita / kits per at risk drug user) * Impact; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid-related deaths within 4 weeks of prison release 	
	Price of THN kits	N/A	
	Source of funding	Programme	* specific national funding * <i>funded by the Scottish government until 2017</i> * <i>now funded by local health boards/Alcohol and Drug Partnerships</i>
		Training (if different)	* specific national funding * <i>funded by the Scottish government or local health boards</i>

Additional information	Project reports, evaluations and scientific papers	<p>Bird, S. M., McAuley, A., Munro, A., Hutchinson, S. J. and Taylor, A. (2017), 'Prison-based prescriptions aid Scotland's National Naloxone Programme.', <i>Lancet (London, England)</i> 389(10073), pp. 1005–6. (available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28290986).</p> <p>Bird, S. M., McAuley, A., Perry, S. and Hunter, C. (2016), 'Effectiveness of Scotland's National Naloxone Programme for reducing opioid-related deaths: A before (2006-10) versus after (2011-13) comparison', <i>Addiction</i> 111(5), pp. 883–91.</p> <p>Bird, S. M. and McAuley, A. (2019), 'Scotland's National Naloxone Programme', <i>The Lancet</i> 393(10169), pp. 316–18. (available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)33065-4).</p> <p>Horsburgh, K. and McAuley, A. (2018), 'Scotland's national naloxone program: The prison experience', <i>Drug and Alcohol Review</i> 37(4), pp. 454–56.</p> <p>Information Services Division (2016), <i>National Naloxone Programme Scotland – Monitoring Report 2015/16</i>, Glasgow (available at https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/2016-10-25/2016-10-25-Naloxone-Report.pdf?77830141783).</p> <p>McAuley, A., Munro, A., Bird, S. M., Hutchinson, S. J., Goldberg, D. J. and Taylor, A. (2016), 'Engagement in a National Naloxone Programme among people who inject drugs', <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i> 162, pp. 236–40.</p> <p>NTA (2011), 'The NTA Overdose and Naloxone Training Programme for Families and Carers - Appendices', (available at http://www.nta.nhs.uk/news-2011-naloxone-report.aspx).</p>	
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	Training materials	E-learning: https://www.sdftraining.org.uk/online-learning
	Contacts	<p>Andrew McAuley (NHS National Services Scotland) <andrew.mcauley@nhs.net> Kirsten Horsburgh, Strategy Coordinator (drug death prevention), Scottish Drugs Forum kirsten@sdf.org.uk</p>

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