



FACT SHEET: NALOXONE

The Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses is the regulatory body for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in New Brunswick. Our mandate is protection of the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate care by its registrants.

WHAT IS NALOXONE?

Naloxone is a medication that blocks or reverses the effects of opioids and is used to treat an overdose in emergency situations. It may be administered to any client population who is experiencing respiratory depression caused by an opioid overdose (NBCP, 2017).

In response to the opioid crisis, the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee granted naloxone a [Schedule II](#) status. Schedule II medications may be purchased without a prescription from pharmacies however, they are kept behind the counter and anyone purchasing naloxone will be provided with education from a pharmacist.

In Canada, Naloxone is available as an injectable or as a nasal spray. In New Brunswick, the Department of Health purchased 2,500 injectable naloxone kits for distribution. The New Brunswick Take Home Naloxone (NBTHN) program offers these kits free of charge to those who are at risk of an overdose or to those who are most likely to witness and respond to an opioid overdose (CMHA, 2019). They are currently available for pick up by the general public at three community agencies: AIDS New Brunswick (Fredericton), Avenue B (Saint John) and Ensemble (Moncton) (CRISM, 2019).

CAN LPNS ADMINISTER NALOXONE IN THE WORKPLACE?

While at your place of employment, LPNs must practice in accordance to legislation, Standards of Practice and employer policies. While it is within the scope of practice for an LPN to administer intramuscular injections such as Naloxone, LPNs must also ensure that there is a policy in place supporting the practice at their individual workplaces. Additionally, LPNs must also possess the competence to administer the medication. If you feel you require further education before engaging in this practice, you should work with your employer to receive the necessary education and support to recognize the signs of an overdose and how to administer the medication (NSCN, 2018).

NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ 100% of provinces & territories offer free, publicly funded naloxone kits
- ✓ 100% of provinces & territories offer injectable kits
- ✓ 590,000 + kits have been distributed across Canada
- CRISM (2019)



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CAN LPNS ADMINISTER NALOXONE WHEN OFF DUTY?

Even when off duty, LPNs must still ensure they are meeting their Standards of Practice which means they must have the knowledge, skill and ability to recognize a potential opioid overdose to provide naloxone as an emergency, lifesaving measure. Furthermore, New Brunswickers are protected from civil liability through the [Volunteer Emergency Aid Act](#) which states that “a person who in good faith voluntarily and without reasonable expectation of compensation or reward provides aid, advice or emergency medical services to the victim of an accident or a medical emergency at the immediate scene of the accident or emergency is not liable for damages that result from the person’s negligence in acting or failing to act, unless it is established that the damages were caused by the gross negligence of the person” (Government of Canada, 2016).

DO I NEED ADDITIONAL EDUCATION IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER NALOXONE?

Administration of Naloxone is within the legislated scope of practice for LPNs providing they have the competence to do so and it is supported by an employer policy. If you are not competent to provide this medication, it is suggested that you obtain the necessary education to do so. This may be provided in-house by your employer or there are several online resources, such as New Brunswick’s [Naloxone Training Video](#), available that you may find helpful.

WHAT IS MY EMPLOYER’S RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING THIS PRACTICE?

Employer’s are responsible for developing policies and procedures to support an LPNs practice in the administration of Naloxone. The LPN is responsible to follow these policies and to advocate for a policy if one does not exist.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- ✓ [Naloxone](#)
- ✓ [Save a Life Fact Sheet](#)
- ✓ [About Opioids](#)
- ✓ [Naloxone Training Video](#)

- Government of New Brunswick

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REFERENCES

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