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## Notice from the Executive Officer: Reminder – the Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies

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August 17, 2016

This notice is a reminder that since June 24, 2016:

- Naloxone hydrochloride for injection is now Schedule II and no longer requires a prescription to be dispensed in pharmacies if indicated for emergency use for opioid overdose outside hospital settings.
- All pharmacies will be reimbursed for providing naloxone emergency kits to eligible Ontario residents and in accordance with the Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies (ONPP) through the Health Network System (HNS).

For further information on naloxone and the ONPP, please refer to the EO Notice and FAQs on naloxone posted on the ministry's website:

[www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp\\_eo/eo\\_communiq.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/eo_communiq.aspx)

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the ODB Help Desk at 1-800-668-6641.

### Naloxone Nasal Spray

The nasal spray formulation of naloxone hydrochloride (NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray, ADAPT Pharma) is now permitted for sale in Canada, without a prescription. For more information, please refer to Health Canada's website:

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activit/announce-annonce/notice-avis-nasal-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activit/announce-annonce/notice-avis-nasal-eng.php)

**Further updates on the availability and ONPP reimbursement of the nasal spray format of naloxone will follow shortly.**

### Pharmacist Training and Naloxone Guidance

As is required when delivering any service, it is the pharmacist's professional responsibility to ensure that he or she has undergone the appropriate training and has the required skills and resources to ensure that the service is provided in a safe and effective manner. The Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) has been working very closely with the ministry on the ONPP

and has developed an online education program which can be accessed, free of charge, through the OPA website at [www.opatoday.com/224122](http://www.opatoday.com/224122).

Pharmacies should continue to refer to the requirements outlined in the [Ontario College of Pharmacists Guidance – Dispensing or Selling Naloxone](#) with regards to providing naloxone.

#### Procurement of Naloxone kits

In advance of the June 2016 roll-out of the ONPP, the ministry arranged for a small, one-time-only auto-shipment of preassembled naloxone kits (i.e., “one-time bridge”) to be made to select methadone and/or Suboxone-dispensing pharmacies across the province. The ministry recognizes that access to pre-assembled kits and/or some of the individual components may be difficult at this time as they are not yet available to all pharmaceutical distributors. We have been working closely with OPA to identify the various suppliers of kits or their components. Please check the OPA website at [www.opatoday.com/professional/naloxone\\_kit\\_tools](http://www.opatoday.com/professional/naloxone_kit_tools) for additional resources related to kit/component procurement.

Thank you for your support and contribution to the reduction of opioid overdose deaths in Ontario.