

KEY RECOMMENDATION

All patients receiving an opioid should proactively be dispensed a take-home naloxone (THN) kit and counselled by a pharmacist.

– 2020 Canadian national consensus guidelines for naloxone prescribing by pharmacists¹

The opioid crisis continues to affect Canadians in your community and across the country.

Between January and December 2023,

7,947 Canadians were hospitalized due to opioid-related poisoning – approximately 4 per day in Quebec alone.^{2,3}

4 TIPS TO HELP YOUR PHARMACY TEAM PROACTIVELY DISPENSE THN KITS AND EDUCATE PATIENTS¹

GOAL: Everyone prescribed an opioid should receive a THN kit



EDUCATE AND ALIGN YOUR TEAM:

Align ALL staff in your pharmacy to proactively co-dispense naloxone

- Assign a staff naloxone champion to handle training and materials
- Give staff opportunities to practice positive, inclusive naloxone counselling strategies
- In-pharmacy signage about naloxone availability can put patients at ease



Get brochures, window stickers, demonstration devices, and more for your pharmacy



ADJUST WORKFLOW:

Make offering naloxone a standard process

- Identify opioid prescriptions during intake and prepare naloxone kits alongside them
- Assign a staff member to manage THN kit inventory and in-store signage
- Understand the billing process for naloxone kits
- Set up alerts on opioid drug files to remind staff to proactively co-dispense naloxone
- Include naloxone recommendations with delivered prescriptions
- Anticipate and manage competing priorities (flu, holiday season)
- Assess gaps by comparing opioid and naloxone dispensing



KNOW YOUR PATIENT:

Be mindful of stigma – both yours and the patient's

- Choose your words thoughtfully. For example, instead of saying “overdose”, say that opioids can slow breathing if someone takes more than their body can handle
- Remind patients that anyone taking an opioid or with access to opioids can be at risk. It's important to have naloxone available and know how to use it



BE A PHARMACY LEADER:

Help make a difference in your community through outreach

- Consider hosting opioid awareness days in your pharmacy or community
- Share your success stories and best practices with peers and colleagues
- Connect with community support groups to offer counselling and access to THN kits

Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to help patients who may be at risk of an opioid overdose.

NARCAN® NASAL SPRAY: NOW IN A PRE-ASSEMBLED KIT!

Kits come with standardized components, **no assembly or procurement required.**

Distributor	Box Product Code	Kit Product Code
McKesson	119095	190308
Kohl & Frisch Ltd.	159801	169354



Use another distributor? **See other product codes here**

NARCAN® Nasal Spray is a pure opioid antagonist indicated for emergency use to reverse known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or severe central nervous system depression.⁴

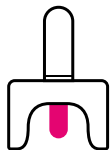
NARCAN® Nasal Spray can be administered by a bystander (non-healthcare professional) before emergency medical assistance becomes available, but it is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical care. Emergency medical assistance (calling 911) should be requested immediately when an opioid overdose is suspected, before administering NARCAN® Nasal Spray.⁴

Please consult the Product Monograph at narcannasalspray.ca/PM/NNS_EN.pdf for contraindications, warnings, precautions, adverse reactions, drug interactions, dosing guidelines, and conditions of clinical use. Always direct patients to read the label and follow the directions for use.

QUEBEC BILLING CODES – NEW AS OF DECEMBER 12, 2024⁵⁻⁸

Program Code	Description	Billing Code	Total Amount Reimbursed
8K: For people on opioids	NARCAN® NASAL SPRAY 2 devices	02458187	\$55.09 (\$50.60 + \$4.49 wholesaler upcharge)
8L: For third-party individuals or caregivers	NARCAN® NASAL SPRAY 2 devices	99101434	\$55.09 (\$50.60 + \$4.49 wholesaler upcharge)
8K: For people on opioids & 8L: For third-party individuals or caregivers	Pre-assembled THN kit to which 2 nasal sprays must be added (maximum 4 kits/service)	99101461	\$17.00
	Barrier mask (single use)	99101446	\$5.00
	Training & education about naloxone (allowed once/person/pharmacy/365 days)*	00901013 EN	\$22.40
	Billing for dispensing new script*	O	\$10.82 (for more than 48,500 Rx) \$10.12 (for 48,500 Rx or less)
	Billing for dispensing renewal*	O	\$10.38 (for more than 48,500 Rx) \$9.68 (for 48,500 Rx or less)
	Dispensing fee for the pre-assembled kit	Y	(Dispensing fee is at \$0.00)

* Subject to change as of April 1, 2025.
Billing codes and reimbursement rates reflect NEW rates published on December 12, 2024. | Please see references for source and confirm rates directly, as these are subject to change.



LOWER PRICE, SAME HIGH QUALITY:
NARCAN® Nasal Spray now matches generic naloxone pricing. **Look for the pink plunger.**

Eligible recipients WITHOUT a Quebec Health Insurance Card, claim slip (*carnet de réclamation*), or proof of temporary eligibility⁵

Without these documents, you can still provide the medication and supplies if the recipient:

- Requires urgent care
- Is a minor aged 14-18 years
- Is homeless
- Is a citizen of another Canadian province or territory, a foreign national, or a tourist who presents their ID (such as a passport)

Enter the following information:

- Last name
- First name
- Date of birth
- Sex
- New intervention or exception code MK for a particular situation must be transmitted in the interactive communication system in pharmacy (CIP)
 - MK: to generate a temporary NAM as part of a free program

References:
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2. Institut national de santé publique du Québec. Conséquences sanitaires liées aux opioïdes et autres. Accessed November 20, 2024. www.inspq.qc.ca/en/node/11428
3. Tsuyuki RT, et al. Canadian national consensus guidelines for naloxone prescribing by pharmacists. *Can Pharm J (Ott)*. 2020;153(6):347-351.
4. NARCAN® Nasal Spray (naloxone HCl) 4 mg/0.1 mL [product monograph]. Oakville, Ontario: Emergent BioSolutions Canada Inc.; 2025. Located at: narcannasalspray.ca/PM/NNS_EN.pdf
5. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). Pharmaciens Manuel. March 18, 2025. <https://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/professionnels/manuels/260-pharmaciens/manuel-pharmaciens.pdf>
6. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). Infolettre 267. December 10, 2024. www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/professionnels/infolettres/2024/info267-24.pdf
7. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). Infolettre 046. May 9, 2018. www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/professionnels/infolettres/2018/info046-9.pdf
8. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). List of Medications. April 10, 2025. https://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/non_indexes/liste_med_2025-04-10_en.pdf
9. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). Entente AQPP 2022-2025. April 1, 2022. www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/professionnels/manuels/260-pharmaciens/historique/Entente-AQPP-MSSS-2022-2025.pdf

