

## Take Home Naloxone Program – Information for Medical Practitioners

The national Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program provides access to **free naloxone** from participating sites (such as community pharmacies and hospitals) to **anyone** at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid adverse reaction. **NO PRESCRIPTION REQUIRED.**

Naloxone is a lifesaving, fast-acting, temporary opioid antagonist with **no risk of misuse**. **Emergency medical treatment is still required.**

In South Australia, naloxone was used **four times a week** between July 2022 – June 2023.

Clients and carers can receive the following at every visit to a participating site:

1. **Nyxioid<sup>®</sup> nasal spray<sup>1</sup>** – up to two packs, each containing two single-dose sprays,
2. **Prenoxad<sup>®</sup> pre-filled syringe** – up to two syringes, each containing five doses, or
3. **Naloxone Juno, Naloxone SXP or Naloxone Hydrochloride (DBL) ampoules** – up to two packs, each containing five single-dose ampoules

**Opioids are the most commonly identified drug class in unintentional drug-induced deaths in Australia.**

Patients on higher opioid doses (e.g. over 40mg oral morphine equivalent/25mg oral oxycodone daily), are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of opioids.

When prescribing opioids, consider naloxone if the patient is at high risk of overdose.

### Initiate the conversation

Your medicine has some potential side effects which can be severe, including making you very drowsy and stopping you breathing.

There are some risks associated with your medication that may require first aid.

Can I talk to you about how to keep safe while taking opioid medication and how to keep your family safe if you have opioid medication in the home?

Accidentally taking too much medication or forgetting you have taken your medication can easily happen. Having naloxone at home can prevent opioid overdose deaths and harms.

Remember this opioid medication can make you drowsy or sedated. Please do not drive or operate heavy machinery. I need to talk to you about naloxone as this can reverse accidental overdose.

For a map of participating sites, please visit [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/naloxone](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/naloxone)

For THN Program queries, please email [Health.THNDASSA@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.THNDASSA@sa.gov.au)

For clinical advice, please contact the Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS) on (08) 7087 1742 — 24 hours a day 7 days/week including public holidays, or email [HealthDACASEnquiries@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthDACASEnquiries@sa.gov.au)

<sup>1</sup> An additional brand, **Nyxioid<sup>®</sup> (UK)**, has been temporarily approved to import and supply in Australia under section 19A (s19A) of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 until 31 July 2024. Updates for this s19A approval are available on the [TGA website](#). Once this approval is lapsed, Nyxioid<sup>®</sup> (UK), will be removed from the THN Program. An update has been published on the [PPA website](#).