

Publicly-funded take-home naloxone in pharmacies across Canada

BC, ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN

Naloxone has been given unscheduled status. It can be distributed without professional supervision through any retail outlet.

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

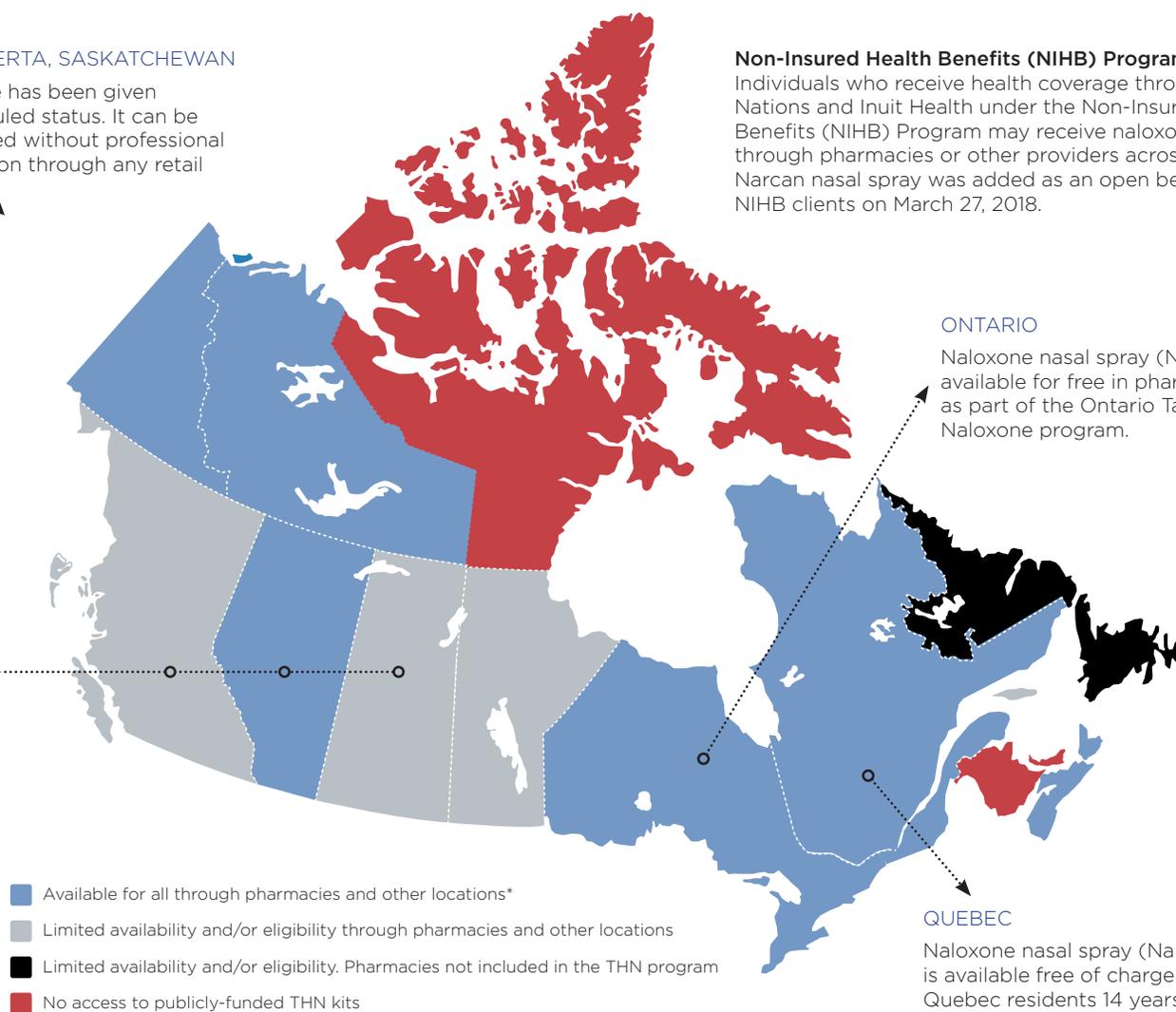
Individuals who receive health coverage through First Nations and Inuit Health under the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program may receive naloxone for free through pharmacies or other providers across Canada. Narcan nasal spray was added as an open benefit for NIHB clients on March 27, 2018.

ONTARIO

Naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) is available for free in pharmacies as part of the Ontario Take-Home Naloxone program.

QUEBEC

Naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) is available free of charge to all Quebec residents 14 years or older through local pharmacies.



The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) created this scan to better understand how naloxone is accessible through pharmacies and other sites across the country. As with other health services, each province has unique regulations and frameworks in place to support patient access to naloxone. This summary serves as a tool to help identify gaps and barriers to naloxone supply and access, and provoke further discussion about pharmacy's role in the distribution of naloxone as well as within the larger opioid crisis.

CPhA strongly believes that naloxone should be readily available to all Canadians at no cost, regardless of where they live. We recommend that all provinces implement a publicly-funded Take-Home Naloxone program to ensure that naloxone is available to all residents without restrictions. Further, naloxone should be available through a variety of providers, including community pharmacies, community health centres, and first responders (i.e. police and fire fighters). Reducing harm from opioid overdose is an important tactic in the larger strategy to address the opioid crisis and advancements must be made to ensure equitable access to naloxone for all Canadians.



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Summary chart of access to naloxone across Canada



	FREE TAKE-HOME NALOXONE KITS					Naloxone available for purchase at pharmacies
	Distributed through pharmacies			Distributed through other sites (e.g. Health and social service centres)		
	Narcan nasal spray	Available for all	Restricted eligibility	Available for all	Restricted eligibility	
British Columbia	X	X	✓ ¹	X	✓	✓
Alberta	X	✓	X	✓	X	X
Saskatchewan	X	X	X	X	✓ ¹	✓
Manitoba	X	X	✓ ¹	X	✓ ¹	✓
Ontario	✓	✓ ²	X	✓	X	✓
Quebec	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓
New Brunswick	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Nova Scotia	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Prince Edward Island	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Newfoundland and Labrador	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Northwest Territories	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Yukon	X	✓	X	✓	X	—
Nunavut	X	—	—	—	—	—

Available
 Insufficient information available
 Not available in the province of territory

1. Number of pharmacies/sites limited.
2. Patients must present a valid Ontario health card to receive free naloxone.

DISCLAIMER: The information presented in this environmental scan was derived from a number of sources. To the best of our knowledge, the information is accurate and reliable as of the date of publication.