

Publicly-funded take-home naloxone in pharmacies across Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALBERTA, MANITOBA SASKATCHEWAN

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

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

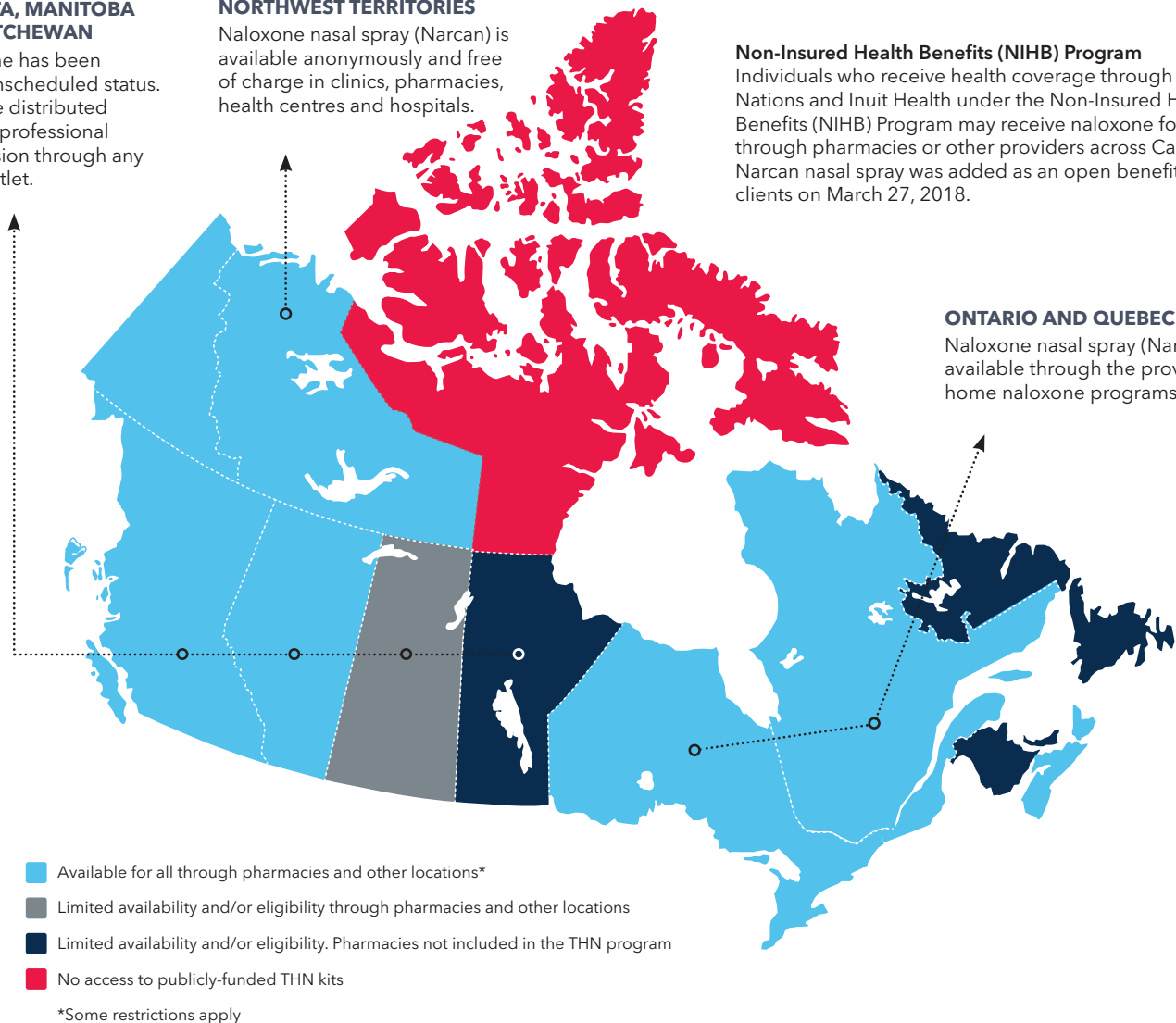
Naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) is available anonymously and free of charge in clinics, pharmacies, health centres and hospitals.

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 AND QUEBEC

Naloxone nasal spray (Narcan) is available through the provincial take-home naloxone programs.



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.



Summary table of access to naloxone across Canada



	Publicly funded take-home naloxone (THN) kits available through pharmacies		Naloxone available for purchase at pharmacies	Naloxone unscheduled
	Injectable naloxone	Narcan nasal spray available through THN program		
British Columbia	✓	✗	✓	✓
Alberta	✓	✗	✗ ¹	✓
Saskatchewan	✓	✗	✓	✓
Manitoba	✗	✗	✓	✓
Ontario	✓	✓	✓	✗
Quebec	✓	✓	✗ ¹	✗
New Brunswick	✗	✗	✓	✗
Nova Scotia	✓	✗	✓	✗
Prince Edward Island	✗	✗	✓	✗
Newfoundland and Labrador	✗	✗	✓	✗
Northwest Territories	✓	✓	✓	✗
Yukon	✓	✗	✓	✗
Nunavut	✗	✗	—	✗

✓ Available

✗ Not available in the province of territory

— Insufficient information available

1. Naloxone available for free through publicly-funded THN program.

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.

Learn more at pharmacists.ca/naloxone



Canadian Pharmacists Association
Association des pharmaciens du Canada