

TO: IWK AND NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH LEADERSHIP & ALL TEAM MEMBERS

FROM: NALOXONE POLICY WORKING GROUP

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2025

RE: REVISED NALOXONE POLICY

Message:

[Naloxone: Administration, Training, and Take Home Kit Distribution – Policy – IWK 4.75 NSHA MM-MS-030](#) has been revised. Please share this memo with your teams.

Highlights for this newest version include:

- Direction for Team Members who:
 - Have completed the required training to administer Naloxone, and/or
 - Train others in the Nova Scotia Take Home Naloxone (THN) Program, and/or
 - Distribute Take Home Naloxone Kits
- Competency requirements:
 - Team Members must acquire and maintain competency as part of their role.
 - Team Members wanting to have training to carry a Naloxone Kit (as part of their role) can do so by seeking support from their immediate supervisor/manager and reaching out to the Take Home Naloxone Program (nsnaloxone@nshealth.ca), Pharmacy (at IWK), or a trained Team Member.
- According to Nova Scotia law:
 - Anyone is allowed to administer Naloxone.
 - Naloxone from a Naloxone Kit may be administered without an order.

Our updated Naloxone Policy supports harm reduction, health equity, and trauma-informed care. It recognizes that substance use exists in our communities and that Naloxone can save lives by reversing opioid toxicity (substance use medical emergency).

The policy requires that all patients are treated with dignity and respect, without stigma or judgment—no matter their substance use background.

Training

- Training is available through [Take Home Naloxone Program | Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions](#)
- LMS Course: Take Home Naloxone Distribution Training, code 1059

QUESTIONS?

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions: [Naloxone Policy FAQ](#)

If you have questions about the policy content, contact nsnaloxone@nshealth.ca, harmreduction@nshealth.ca, or ask your manager.

If you have questions about the policy process, please contact the [IWK Health policy office](#) or [Nova Scotia Health policy office](#).