

Manitoba Take Home Naloxone Program

Considerations for the Service of Youth and Families

This information addresses concerns about a service provider's duty to report when providing naloxone kits to youth, or families or households with children.

A duty to report relies on the belief that there is risk of neglect or imminent harm to a child or youth. Service providers must therefore be alert to signs of child neglect or abuse with the intent of protecting children and youth safety and well-being. In addition to external protocols and legislation, such as the [Child and Family Services Act of Manitoba](#), organizations may have internal procedures to provide guidance and clarity on your specific role in the duty to report.

While we encourage providers to use their judgement informed by evidence, it is important to understand that naloxone is not an indicator of imminent harm or neglect and therefore requesting a naloxone kit is not a direct indicator of a duty to report. Individuals may be seeking naloxone for themselves or someone else, and to ensure the Take Home Naloxone (THN) program remains low-barrier, people are not required to disclose the reason for obtaining a kit.

Naloxone administration saves lives and is safe for people of all ages. Opioid toxicity can affect anyone and the harms are impacting families and communities across the province. It is important that everyone is informed of services available to them, including take-home naloxone. It is recommended that anyone who is likely to experience or witness an overdose to carry a kit, including parents, guardians and youth. With that in mind, and because of the significant burden of harm arising from opioid drugs, it is important to consider the risks associated with not having naloxone readily available and to understand naloxone is not an indicator of imminent harm or neglect.

An additional opportunity arises when someone presents for a naloxone kit as it is an additional point of contact with the health system that may not have happened otherwise. Service providers are encouraged to use that opportunity to support the agency and autonomy of people in creating a safety and response plan in the event of an emergency and provide them with the tools needed to be active members of their communities.