



Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board

At their meeting on February 18, 2017, the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board approved the following changes to the Provincial Drug Schedules:

Naloxone hydrochloride (nasal spray)

To reflect the NDSAC recommendation of December 12, 2016, finalized on December 22, 2016.

Added to Schedule II: "Naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, when indicated for emergency use for opioid overdose outside hospital settings."

Applicable Scheduling Factors: Schedule I – 2
Schedule II – 3, 9, 10
Schedule III – 2, 5

Background:

In considering the placement of naloxone in the national drug schedules, NDSAC noted the following:

- Naloxone nasal spray is safer and easier for bystanders to administer than injectable naloxone which was granted Schedule II status.
- The need for pharmacist intervention may be perceived as a barrier to access in some communities.
- Naloxone nasal spray is still relatively new to the non-prescription market and is delivered using a new drug delivery system - as such, consumers would benefit from education at the point of purchase similar to that of for naloxone injection:
 - recognizing the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose,
 - reminders to call 911,
 - instruction on recognizing rebound toxicity and giving repeat doses, and
 - monitoring the expiry date of the product,as well as emphasizing issues related to the delivery system such as the importance of not testing or priming the device as the dose would then be lost.

The committee ultimately felt that Schedule II placement was most appropriate.

The Guidelines for Pharmacy Practice regarding naloxone that were approved at the last Board meeting will also be updated to reflect the addition of this dosage format.