

# Advice for patients and individuals who are confirmed or potential holders of Prenoxad Naloxone kits

## Introduction

A manufacturing problem may mean the Prenoxad kit you have is missing the correct number of needles – this could prevent you from using it in an emergency. Follow the instructions below to check for missing needles in any Prenoxad kits you hold. If you are not sure how to check the number of needles, ask a healthcare professional or service provider for advice. There are no concerns about the naloxone medicine in the kit – you should continue to use your kit in situations of opioid overdose if a needle is present

### Steps to take:

#### 1. Check to see if you have any kits of Prenoxad Injection in your possession or at home:

There are no concerns about the medicine in these kits but it is possible that some Prenoxad kits contain fewer than two (2) needles in each kit. A needle is needed to administer the medicine (naloxone) from the pre-filled syringe. If a needle is not available, this means the medicine cannot be used to reverse opioid overdose in an emergency.

#### 2. If you have a Prenoxad kit, visually check the contents by holding it against a light source to confirm the presence of two (2) needle packets (see image 1 below):

If needles are present, two (2) dark squares can be seen in the middle of the kit, off set slightly as shown below and indicated by the circle below on the image:

If one (1) needle is present, only one (1) dark square will be seen as shown below and indicated by the circle below on the image:

If no needles are present, the dark squares cannot be seen as shown below:

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- Alternatively, you could open your Prenoxad Injection kit to confirm that there are two (2) needles in each kit (see image 2 below):

Contents of an opened kit. Prenoxad kits are packed with two (2) Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles, along with the pre-filled syringe containing the active ingredient (naloxone hydrochloride), and a Patient Information Leaflet



Two (2) Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles



If you open the kit, do not touch the pre-filled syringe (the tube with liquid in). The clear plastic cap at the end of the pre-filled syringe must be intact so that the injection remains sterile (**see image 3 below**). The kits can be closed after visual inspection. Always click the kit closed after it is opened to ensure the contents stay secure.

Image detailing the clear plastic cap at the end of the pre-filled syringe that must remain intact in order to maintain sterility of the medicinal product



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### 4. If you are unclear on how to visually check or physically open a Prenoxad kit:

Take it back to the healthcare professional or service provider who initially supplied this medicine to you and request assistance in checking the kit. This may be the local drug treatment service, a community pharmacy involved in support programmes, needle and syringe programmes, peer support groups, or drugs outreach workers.

### 5. What do I do if the kit does not contain two needles

If you see that your kit does not contain two needles, **you must take it back to the provider** who gave you the kit, or a community pharmacy involved in needle and syringe programmes, or a local substance misuse team or service provider, for a replacement.

As per the advice stated in the [Patient Information Leaflet](#), Prenoxad Injection should be carried by people at risk of an opioid overdose, therefore it is important that you have a replacement provided to you when you return any affected kits.

### 6. Action to take in the event of an opioid overdose

If you, or somebody you observe, has taken an opioid and are experiencing the symptoms of opioid overdose, please seek medical assistance or visit the nearest accident and emergency centre. If you have nasal naloxone or injectable naloxone (with a needle) available, administer it according to the instructions in the kit.

Symptoms of overdose can include the following:

- pinpoint pupils
- loss of consciousness (i.e. the person cannot be woken) or respiratory depression/breathing slows or stops
- extremely pale face that may feel clammy to the touch or bluish purple tinge to lips or fingernails
- no response to noise/cannot be awakened, unable to speak or vomiting or making gurgling noises

**If someone has symptoms of an opioid overdose and is not breathing, call 999 and ask for an ambulance immediately.**

### Further Information

Please see [Supplementary Information](#) for individuals, patients and/or members of the public