



March 2026

**Expanding the route 1 list of services and professionals**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to enable hostels for people experiencing homelessness to supply naloxone without a prescription through route 1?**

Agree

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to enable day centres for people experiencing homelessness to supply naloxone without a prescription through route 1?**

Agree

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to enable outreach services for people experiencing homelessness to supply naloxone without a prescription through route 1?**

Agree

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?**

Agree

**If you have any further comments on these proposals, please include them here.**

Removing these steps should: Increase distribution volume Reduce administrative friction Enable rapid hand-out in urgent situations This shift aligns with the broader goal to reduce overdose deaths nationally.

**Clearly enabling organisations whose employees are at risk of opioid contamination to procure and stock naloxone for emergency use**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?**

Agree

**If you have any further comments on this proposal, please include them here.**

**Aside from government enforcement authorities and lab testing facilities, do you know of any other organisations whose employees are at risk of opioid contamination who may benefit from procuring naloxone for emergency use?**

No

**Please explain your answer.**

N/A

### **Creating a new route of supply**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to enable the supply of naloxone through a publicly accessible emergency locked box, which can be accessed in the event of an opioid overdose?**

Agree

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that enabling the supply of naloxone through a publicly accessible emergency locked box model would be a helpful tool in increasing public awareness of naloxone?**

Agree

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that (if introduced) the publicly accessible emergency locked boxes should be supplied and operated by organisations that provide an NHS or other publicly funded service?**

Agree

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that (if introduced) the supply of naloxone in a publicly accessible emergency locked box should include both nasal and injectable naloxone products?**

Disagree

**If you have any further comments on these proposals, please include them here.**

We are of the opinion in an emergency the process should be as simple as possible and our experience is that in these circumstances the nasal equipment is easier to administer especially for members of the public who have had no training.

### **Comments on the full legislation**

**If you have any further comments on the detail of the draft legislation, please include them here.**

As an alliance representing 23 organisations delivering drug and alcohol services, we have seen how promoting the use of naloxone has positively influenced harm reduction culture and played a key role in reducing fatal overdoses across our services. We believe that introducing legislative change to allow staff to supply naloxone would further embed this culture and strengthen our ability to prevent overdose deaths among those we support.

Such a change would remove any uncertainty around holding an accessible supply of naloxone for use in emergencies and give staff the confidence to act decisively when someone is at risk of overdose. In turn, this reinforces service users' understanding that NIADA members are committed to their safety, which supports wider recovery outcomes by building trust and encouraging openness to treatment options.

**Do you think the proposals risk impacting people differently, or could impact adversely on any of the protected characteristics covered by the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 or by section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?**

No

**Please explain your answer.**

Overall, the impact should be positive as it will be increasing accessibility with varied options for people in need of the medication. We would be particularly sensitive to the needs of female substance users who may be concerned about being seen accessing services associated with drug use as it could impact their access to their children if they have social services involvement. However, the range of options increasing is going to have a positive impact on their ability to access naloxone when they require it. If emergency boxes or hostel supplies are not distributed evenly, some communities could benefit more than others. This could indirectly affect groups concentrated in certain geographic areas (e.g., migrant communities in rural areas).

**Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Please explain your answer.**

There is a concentration of homeless and drug services in urban areas. If the only option in some rural communities is to access naloxone through their local pharmacy, they may be reluctant due to possible stigma. The increase of Outreach services will be crucial when faced with this obstacle.