

May 18, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals – Emergency, Pharmacists, EMS Services, Community Services

RE: NEW NALOXONE KIT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

A new *Naloxone Kit Distribution Program* has been launched in Northumberland County by a local partnership of health, police, emergency medical services, and social service agencies. Plans are also in the works to establish similar *Naloxone Kit Distribution Programs* in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County in the near future.

Locally, PARN- Your Community AIDS Resource Network (a community agency that provides support and health promotion for people living with, at risk or affected by HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections in the four counties) and the Oshawa Community Health Centre/The Youth Centre are the lead local agencies for the *Naloxone Kit Distribution Program*.

Naloxone is an emergency medicine that temporarily revives a person who has overdosed on opioids. It is meant as a short-term standby, until the individual can be taken to hospital for proper treatment. Naloxone is completely safe, it has no abuse potential and no side effects. The Naloxone kits are distributed to opioid users themselves – both those who use the drugs medically or for non-medical reasons. In order to receive a Naloxone kit, people will be required to attend a mandatory education session where they will be asked questions to determine if they are eligible for the program.

Northumberland County is the first community within the Health Unit's area to implement such a *Naloxone Kit Distribution Program*. In coming months, the Health Unit will be moving forward to contact and train key stakeholders in order to launch a similar *Naloxone Kit Distribution Programs* in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

Even if a *Naloxone Kit Distribution Program* has not yet been launched in your community, you may encounter situations in which Naloxone has been administered. This may occur, since not only Northumberland County, but surrounding jurisdictions including Peterborough City and County and Durham Region also have *Naloxone Kit Distribution Programs* in place.

To find out more information about the *Naloxone Kit Distribution Program* or if your agency is interested in providing Naloxone training for your clientele, contact:

- PARN at 1-800-361-2895
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1236.

Haliburton
705-457-1391

Lindsay
705-324-3569

Port Hope
905-885-9100

After Hours
1-888-255-7839