

## Can we save more lives? A new approach to providing take-home naloxone.

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**Introduction:** To date, the provision of take-home naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses, has predominantly been through face to face contact with treatment providers and other services. However, this may be a barrier for those who live in remote areas and are unable to access services, or those who do not wish to be identified by accessing services in person.

**Abstract body text:** The NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) funded by the NSW Ministry of Health commenced a pilot program in December 2020, of a postal take-home naloxone service. The online registration, training/intervention and assessment process, with the naloxone sent through the post, may be a “game changer” in terms of addressing the on-going risk of opioid related overdoses and deaths.

Data for the last twelve months indicates a high demand for this type of service, with 88% (789) of a total of 895 units of naloxone provided by NUAA to members of the community, being through the postal service. The majority of people accessing the service were males (71%), 36 - 45 years (90%), who also accessed injecting equipment, information, advice, when accessing the postal take-home naloxone service.

The experience of people who accessed the pilot program will be discussed, including the implications for other service providers who may consider providing a similar service.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** A postal take-home naloxone service with online registration, training and assessment, and provision of the naloxone through the post, addresses a number of gaps in providing this life-saving intervention to as many people in the community as possible.

### Disclosure of Interest Statement:

*No pharmaceutical grants were received in the development of this study. NUAA received funding from the NSW Ministry of Health for the pilot program and the evaluation.*