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19th September, 2025

Deputy Graves
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re:47836/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she has increased the availability of naloxone, trained individuals on its use and equipped Gardaí with naloxone to carry on the beat.

Dear Deputy Graves

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is responsible for delivering action 2.2.30 b) Expanding the availability of naloxone to people who use drugs, their peers and family members to reduce drug harm under the National Drugs Strategy.

Opioid Overdose Awareness and Naloxone Administration Training for people who use drugs, their peers and family members is facilitated by the HSE and our partner services. Training data is collated by the HSE National Social Inclusion Office.

- In 2022 services shared data for facilitating training for 141 people they support of which 60 were provided with naloxone.
- In 2023 services shared data for facilitating training for 798 people they support of which 773 were provided with naloxone.
- In 2024 services have shared data for facilitating training for 1,090 people they support of which 1,029 have been provided with naloxone.
- In 2025 to date, services have shared data for facilitating training for 517 people they support of which 491 have been provided with naloxone.

The HSE's Opioid Overdose Awareness and Naloxone Administration Training blended course launched on HSeLanD at the end of January 2024. This course is open to all HSeLanD users and designed for all frontline workers (clinical and non-clinical) and volunteers who may witness an opioid overdose. To date 3,655 learners have completed Module 1 and 1,620 learners have completed Module 2.



In 2024 the HSE and partner support services commenced facilitating Circle Programmes. The Circle Programme [1] is a peer skills and education programme on overdose risks, prevention and management. This peer programme supports people who use drugs to understand overdose risks, take steps to prevent overdose and manage effectively if they are around someone who is overdosing. The programme is accessible to the most marginalised groups such as those with literacy issues, experiencing homelessness, mental health issues or have English as a second language.

Sixteen Circle Programmes were facilitated across Ireland in 2024, 90/101 peer participants graduated, all of which were provided with naloxone to take home. A further seventeen programmes are being facilitated by the HSE and partner services in 2025.

In summary, there has been substantial progress by the HSE and partner support services to expand the provision of training and availability of naloxone to people who might witness an opioid overdose. The HSE supports the process to enhance access to naloxone, particularly for family members. This may require some amendments to legislation which are outside the remit of the HSE and needs to be discussed with the Controlled Drugs, Medicines and Pharmacy regulation section of the Department of Health.

The HSE have been in discussion with An Garda Síochána in relation to naloxone however further updates in relation to whether Gardaí will be equipped with naloxone to carry should be directed to An Garda Síochána or the Department of Justice.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me or Jenny Smyth (Naloxone Project Lead, HSE Addiction Services, National Social Inclusion Office) by email at jennifer.smyth2@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services
HSE National Social Inclusion Office

[1] The Circle Programme is a nationwide rollout of the TOPPLE Programme, which was developed by Novas in 2014.