

## **Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme**

### **What is it?**

The Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme is a free, confidential service for people who inject drugs. You can get new, sterile injecting equipment through the scheme. This reduces your risk of catching viruses, like HIV and hepatitis B and C, which are spread by contact with infected blood. The scheme also disposes of used equipment safely, which reduces the risk of other people coming into contact with these viruses via used needles or syringes. Most schemes are run through pharmacies.

### **Who can use it?**

If you inject drugs of any sort, you can use a needle and syringe exchange service. This includes opioids, steroids, stimulants and tanning solutions. You do not have to commit to any treatment to use the service, although the staff will be happy to help you access other services at any time if you want.

### **What else does the service do?**

The service can offer advice, information and support to help you reduce your risk of harm from injecting. If you have needs in other areas, such as housing, alcohol use, mental or physical health problems, it can also help you to access other support services.

### **What can I expect at an exchange?**

You will be treated in a respectful manner at all times by all staff and your exchange will be confidential. It is also expected that you will behave in a respectful way towards staff and other clients at all times.

You can get advice or written information on:

- blood borne viruses
- safer injecting
- hepatitis B immunisation
- overdose prevention
- naloxone (a medication which can save lives by reversing the effects of opioid overdose)

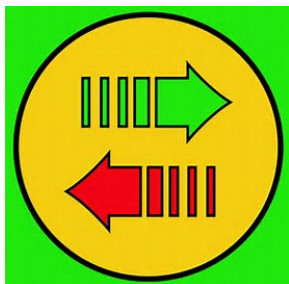
You can get sterile needles and syringes for injecting, and associated materials, such as condoms, citric acid, sterile water and swabs, along with sharps containers (cinbins) for returning used equipment in.

Needle exchange providers will work with you to make sure you have enough equipment for your needs. You may want to ask for extra needles if you are collecting for other people, or if it is difficult for you to get to the pharmacy.

It is really important that you return your needles so they can be disposed of safely. Before bringing them to the pharmacy, put them in your small black cinbin, and make sure it is properly sealed.

### Where is my nearest scheme?

There are 26 pharmacy-based schemes currently operating across Northern Ireland – find one in your area below. Pharmacies that take part in the scheme will have a window sticker on display.



<b>Belfast</b>	
Boots 35 Donegall Place Belfast BT1 5AW 028 9024 2332	J. McGregor Chemist Ltd 30 Botanic Avenue Belfast BT7 1JQ 028 9031 0045
<b>South Eastern</b>	
Clear Pharmacy 5 Church Street Bangor BT20 3HX 028 9127 1820	Gordon's Pharmacy 31 Market Street Downpatrick BT30 6LP 028 4461 2014

<p>Gordon's Pharmacy 54-56 Bow Street Lisburn BT28 1BN 028 9267 4747</p>	<p>Gordon's Pharmacy 2A Regent St, Newtownards BT23 4LH 028 9181 3217</p>
<b>Northern</b>	
<p>Boots Ballymena Health Centre Cushendall Road, Ballymena BT43 6HQ 028 2531 3140</p>	<p>Boots 2-12 Queen Street Harryville Ballymena BT42 2BB. 028 2564 5994</p>
<p>Boots Abbeycentre, Longwood Road Newtownabbey BT37 9UH. 028 9036 5910</p>	<p>Boots 8 High Street Antrim BT41 4AN 028 9446 2224</p>
<p>Boots 26-28 Church St Coleraine BT52 1AR 028 7035 6666</p>	<p>Boots 5-7 James Street Cookstown BT80 8AA 028 8676 6176</p>
<b>Southern</b>	
<p>Northern Pharmacies Ltd Brownlow Health Centre Craigavon BT65 5BE 028 3834 1462</p>	<p>Boots 15 Scotch Street Armagh BT61 7BY 028 3752 3199</p>
<p>McKeagney's Pharmacy 5 John Mitchel Place Newry BT34 2BP 028 3026 2606</p>	

<b>Western</b>	
Lloyds Pharmacy 1 Ebrington Terrace Londonderry BT47 6JS 028 7134 2454	Superdrug Ferryquay Street Londonderry BT48 6JS 028 7126 3334
Lloyds Pharmacy 28 Belmore Street Enniskillen BT74 6AA 028 6632 2202	Gordon's Pharmacy Unit 2, 57-61 Main Street Limavady BT49 0EP 028 7776 3438
Mourne Pharmacy (Medicare) 8A Beechmount Avenue Strabane BT82 9BD 028 7188 5548	

### **Can I exchange needles and syringes anywhere other than at a pharmacy?**

We know that there are many people injecting drugs who, for a range of reasons, do not use pharmacy needle exchanges. Local outreach teams can also provide needle and syringe exchange services, as well as advice and information on reducing your risk of harm from drug or alcohol use. Like the pharmacies, they can also help you to access other support services or treatment. You can contact your local team at:

- Belfast area (Belfast Drug Outreach Team) 028 9504 1433
- Northern area (Extern) 028 2565 4012
- Southern area (Extern) 074 2343 2110
- South Eastern area (Simon Community) 074 3575 4307/074 3575 4302
- Western area:
  - Derry area (Depaul) 028 7136 5259
  - Fermanagh and Omagh areas (Arc Healthy Living Centre) 028 6862 8741
  - Limavady area (First Housing Aid and Support Services) 028 7137 1849

*Telephone numbers can change – if you cannot get through on the numbers above, you can find contact details for your local service at [www.drugsandalcoholni.info](http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info) in the section “Services near you”.*