

Needle and Syringe Provision: Minimum Standards Checklist

Minimum Standards for Needle Syringe Programme (NSP) Across Humankind

These minimum standards must be used in conjunction with locally commissioned service level arrangements (e.g. for community pharmacy provision) documents where appropriate. They are to be used to improve coverage, reduce the risk of needle finds, and ensure consistent high-quality delivery of NSP within services and outreach provision across Humankind, including via mobile units and sub-contracted Pharmacies. These standards help to ensure that individuals receive a service based on harm reduction principles from well informed and responsive staff and volunteers, regardless of where they are in their recovery journey.

These standards support compliance with regulatory standards and national guidance relating to NSP and harm reduction set out within:

- Drug misuse and Dependence UK guidelines on clinical management ('Orange Book', 2017 update)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) Regulation
- Applicable NICE guidelines

NSP aims to:

- Ensure full and equitable reach of comprehensive harm reduction services to all who use substances.
- Reduce stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs.
- Reduce incidence of substance-related health and social harms, including transmission of blood-borne viruses (BBVs).
- Provide equipment that meets national best practice standards, for example low dead space syringes.
- Provide safe disposal of used/no longer required equipment.
- Provide information on the safe use and disposal of equipment.
- Support and develop a network of Pharmacy NSP including naloxone (THN) and DBST and sharing of intelligence relating to alerts etc
- Provide take-home naloxone (THN)
- Provide DBST and pathway into Hepatitis C treatment.
- Provide condoms and other barrier methods of contraception
- Raise awareness about how to reduce the risk of drug related harms including injection site infections overdoses and how to manage them, including use of THN.
- Promote and facilitate referrals to additional sources of support and advice as needed, including provision of clear and concise pathways into e.g. specialist substance misuse treatment services, primary care, dentistry, sexual health, mental health services, outreach services, homeless services and hostels.

NSP Minimum Standards Checklist

Minimum Standard to be evidenced	☑=meets expected standard. No action required ☐=Doesn't meet expected standard. Add details of all agreed actions/comments
Provision is easily accessible e.g. disabled access	☐
Accessible according to individual preference e.g. face to face, online, postal delivery	☐
Opening times and locations reflect the needs of the population and their details are readily available to the people that need them	☐
Fixed sites conform to a specification managed by Humankinds' premises department	☐
Access is anonymised for NSP and THN where the Service User wishes	☐
Appropriate space to conduct confidential assessments and provide equipment	☐
Appropriate space to enable physical assessment and wound management	☐
All staff/volunteers have received a Hepatitis B vaccination, completed harm reduction training and the NSP competency framework	☐
Dedicated pathways established to other services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual health • GP • Pharmacy • Mental health • Dentistry • Smoking cessation • Wound care management/tissue bioavailability services • Blood-borne virus (including hepatitis C) treatment services • Specialist substance misuse treatment services • Housing • Relevant local other(s) 	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
All equipment meets national best practice standards e.g. low dead space syringes	☐
Appropriate clinical waste provision with dedicated flexible collection times	☐
Designated areas for storage of used sharps bins and safe disposal in line with Health and Safety Policy #604	☐
Processes in place for managing stock control, using Appendix 1: Needle Syringe Provision Stock Check Form	☐
Use a clear and concise assessment process that reflects population needs, captures details of equipment issued/returned and length reflects time spent in the service	☐
Connected to Local Authority Community Safety Initiatives in relation to discarded needle and syringes in the community	☐
Sharps disposal devices issued at every interaction where appropriate	☐
Service provision for all substances including image- and performance- enhancing drugs	☐
Provide harm reduction advice and information e.g. safer injecting practices, infection control measures, wound care, oral hygiene, smoking cessation, overdose management	☐
Provide take-home naloxone (THN)	☐
Provide testing for blood-borne viruses including Hepatitis C via dried blood spot testing	☐
Vaccination for Hepatitis B should be available on-site	☐
Engaged with a Peer Support Network for e.g. NSP, THN and BBV testing	☐
Ability to collate/disseminate information relating to suspected drug related deaths/concerns about drug alert e.g. fentanyl, isotonitazene	☐
Appropriate responses to crisis management e.g. homelessness, physical/mental health	☐
Provide condoms and other barrier methods of contraception / free menstruation products	☐
Support access to low threshold prescribing/same day prescribing	☐