



# Needle and Syringe Exchange Service

## What is it?



The Needle and Syringe Exchange Service is a free, confidential service for people who inject drugs. You can get new, sterile injecting equipment through the service. This reduces your risk of catching viruses, like HIV and hepatitis B and C, which are spread by contact with infected blood. The service 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 services are run through community 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 snorting 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. If you want more than one pack or extra needles because you live far away and find it hard to get to the pharmacy, or because you are getting packs for friends, then tell your pharmacist so they can give you extra packs.

If you don't plan to use all the equipment in a pack, please tell your pharmacist so they can open it and you can take only what you need. This saves you having to dispose of what you don't use, and also saves money because expensive equipment is not being thrown away.

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 service?

There are 21 pharmacy-based services currently operating across Northern Ireland – find one in your area below. Pharmacies that provide this service will have a window sticker on display.



### Pharmacies funded by PHA to provide needle exchange

#### Belfast

**Chemist Connect**

*(Self-select model)*

59 High Street

Belfast

BT1 2AB

Tel: 028 9023 1002

**TA Maguire Ltd**

*(Self-select model)*

3 Beechmount Avenue

Belfast

BT12 7NA

Tel: 028 9032 0590

#### South Eastern

**Clear Pharmacy**

42 Newtownards Road

Bangor

BT20 4BP

Tel: 028 9127 1820

**Gordons Pharmacy**

31 Market Street

Downpatrick

BT30 6LP

Tel: 028 4461 2014

**Gordons Pharmacy**

54-56 Bow Street

Lisburn

BT28 1BN

Tel: 028 9267 4747

**Gordons Pharmacy**

2A Regent Street

Newtownards

BT23 4LH

Tel: 028 9181 3217

## Northern

### Boots the Chemists

Ballymena Health Centre  
Cushendall Road  
Ballymena  
BT43 6HQ  
Tel: 028 2531 3140

### Boots the Chemists

2-12 Queen Street  
Harryville  
Ballymena  
BT42 2BB  
Tel: 028 2564 5994

### Boots the Chemists

Abbeycentre, Longwood Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT37 9UH  
Tel: 028 9036 5910

### Boots the Chemists

8 High Street  
Antrim  
BT41 4AN  
Tel: 028 9446 2224

### Boots the Chemists

26-28 Church Street  
Coleraine  
BT52 1AR  
Tel: 028 7035 6666

### Boots the Chemists

5-7 James Street  
Cookstown  
BT80 8AA  
Tel: 028 8676 6176

## Southern

### Northern Pharmacies Ltd

Brownlow Health Centre  
Craigavon  
BT65 5BE  
Tel: 028 3834 1462

### Boots the Chemist

15 Scotch Street  
Armagh  
BT61 7BY  
Tel: 028 3752 3199

### McKeagney's Pharmacy

John Mitchel Place  
Newry  
BT34 2BP  
Tel: 028 3026 2606

## Western

**Lloyds Pharmacy**  
1 Ebrington Terrace  
Derry/Londonderry  
BT47 6JS  
Tel: 028 7134 2454

**Superdrug**  
Ferryquay Street  
Derry/Londonderry  
BT48 6JS  
Tel: 028 7126 3334

**Lloyds Pharmacy**  
28 Belmore Street  
Enniskillen  
BT74 6AA  
Tel: 028 6632 2202

**Gordons Pharmacy**  
Unit 2, 57-61 Main Street  
Limavady  
BT49 0EP  
Tel: 028 7776 3438

**Mourne Pharmacy (Medicare)**  
8A Beechmount Avenue  
Strabane  
BT82 9BD  
Tel: 028 7188 5548

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

There are many people injecting drugs who, for a range of reasons, do not use pharmacy needle exchanges. Local outreach teams and Low Threshold services 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.

### Non Pharmacy providers funded by PHA to provide needle exchange

#### Belfast

##### **Belfast Drug Outreach Team**

Drug Outreach Service  
159 Durham Street  
Belfast  
BT12 4GB  
Tel: 028 9504 1433

**Extern** (*funded, in conjunction with Belfast City Council, to collect discarded injecting paraphernalia in Belfast*)

Street Injectors Support Service  
3 McKinney Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 4PE  
Tel: 028 9033 0433

##### **Extern**

Community Based Needle Exchange service  
9 Rosemary Street  
Belfast  
BT1 1QA  
Freephone: 0800 085 8426

##### **Belfast Inclusion Health Service**

BHSCT  
28 Townsend Street  
Belfast  
BT13 2ES

## Northern

### **NHSCT Community Addiction Service**

105A Railway Street  
Ballymena  
BT42 2AF  
Tel: 028 2531 7162

## Low Threshold Services funded by PHA

### Belfast

#### **Belfast Drug Outreach Team**

Drug Outreach Service  
159 Durham Street  
Belfast  
BT12 4GB  
Tel: 028 9504 1433

### South Eastern

#### **Simon Community**

2 Flush Park  
Lisburn  
BT28 2DX  
Tel: 074 3575 4307 / 074 3575 4302 / 074 3575 4301

### Northern

#### **Extern**

106 Bridge Street  
Ballymena  
BT43 5EP  
Tel: 028 2565 4012

## Southern

### Extern

53 Church Place

Lurgan

BT66 6HD

Tel: 074 2347 4844

## Western (Consortium)

### Derry Area

DePaul, Foyle Haven

23a John Street

Derry/Londonderry

BT48 6JY

Tel: 028 7136 5259 / 028 7126 0839

### Limavady Area

First Housing

28A Bishop Street

Derry/Londonderry

BT48 6PP

Tel: 028 7137 1849

### Fermanagh and Omagh Areas

Arc Healthy Living Centre

116-122 Sallyswood

Irvinestown

BT94 1HQ

Tel: 028 6862 8741

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



# Public Health Agency

## **Public Health Agency**

12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.

Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate).

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

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