



New Zealand  
**Needle Exchange**  
Programme  
Te Waipounamu | DISC

# Pharmacy and Alternate Provider Programme

June 2024



# Needle Exchange Programme – Why?

- To keep people safe from harms associated with injecting drug use
- Hepatitis C identification, testing and treatment
- HIV infection rates among PWID remain the lowest in the world
- It is one of the most effective public health programmes in New Zealand in terms of health outcomes and cost benefit
- For every \$1 spent NZ saves \$6.79 in downstream health related costs (HCV HIV etc)



# Who provides the service

- **20 Dedicated needle exchanges + Mobile Services**
  - Main centres
  - A peer-based service
  
- **200 Pharmacies**
  - Good coverage across Aotearoa New Zealand
  
- **Alternate Outlets**
  - New Zealand Prostitutes Collective
  - Sexual Health Clinics
  - Community Health Providers
  - Hospital Pharmacies

# Confidentiality

- The programme is entirely confidential
- No records of names or other identifying details are kept
- You may NOT disclose to any third party any details of clients using the service
- Confidentiality covers clients on the Opioid Substitution Treatment Programme
- Extend the same discretion given to any other customer
- Needle exchange clients use the service at your pharmacy based on trust.

# Stigma

- Stigma is a negative attitude or belief about a mental, physical or social feature of a person or group of people
- Stigma is one of the biggest issues faced by the people that use the service. They consistently suffer discrimination which then negatively impacts their health and wellbeing
- Many of the people that use the NEP services have or have had major trauma in their lives
- Often people will self stigmatise – “I’m bad for what I do”
- Providing non judgemental support to people using the service, improves their health and wellbeing
- Reducing stigma is a major goal within the needle exchange programme.

# Distributing Equipment

- A double arrow symbol identifies being part of the Needle exchange programme (NEP)
- The NEP provides free equipment to clients
- Six pre-made packs available to distribute to clients
- Packs are colour coded for easy identification while being discreet
- Meets most drug use needs
- Always encourage used equipment to be returned but is not a requirement.



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# Packs for Clients

## Six packs available free to clients

- Standard IV Pack
- Intramuscular PIEDs Pack
- 1ml Fixed Needle Pack
- 10ml Syringe Pack
- All in One Pack
- Butterfly Pack



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# Standard IV Pack

- ✓ 10 x 3ml syringe
- ✓ 10 x 27g x ½ needles
- ✓ 10 x alcohol prep pads
- ✓ 1 x personal sharps container
- ✓ 1 x information leaflet

This is a basic multi-purpose pack for people who use a wide range of drugs.





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# Intramuscular PIEDs pack

- ✓ 10 x 3ml syringe
- ✓ 10 x 23g x 1 ½ needles
- ✓ 10 x 18g x 1 ½ needles
- ✓ 10 x alcohol prep pads
- ✓ 1 x personal sharps container
- ✓ 1 x information leaflet

This is primarily aimed at people who use Performance and Image Enhancing Drug (PIEDs) but is suitable for anyone who is injecting intramuscularly as there is a drawing up needle along with a longer larger gauge needle for injecting directly into the muscle.



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# 1ml Fixed Needle pack

- ✓ 10 x 1ml Insulin syringes with attached 29g needle
- ✓ 10 x alcohol prep pads
- ✓ 1 x personal sharps container
- ✓ 1 x information leaflet

This pack is tailored to methamphetamine and subcutaneous Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs (PIEDs) use.



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# 10ml Syringe pack

- ✓ 5 x 10ml syringes
- ✓ 5 x 27g x ½ needles
- ✓ 5 x alcohol prep pads
- ✓ 1 x personal sharps container
- ✓ 1 x information leaflet

This pack is suitable for use by people who inject Methadone or Methylphenidate and do not require use of a butterfly to inject.



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# All in One pack

- ✓ 2 x 3ml syringe
- ✓ 2 x 27g x 1/2 needles
- ✓ 2 x alcohol prep pads
- ✓ 1 x personal sharps container
- ✓ 1 x sterile water
- ✓ 1 x maxicup
- ✓ 1 x information leaflet

This pack covers a range of drug use and is suitable for morphine, methamphetamine, and smaller amounts of methylphenidate or methadone.



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# Butterfly pack

- ✓ 2 x 10ml syringe
- ✓ 2 x 18g x ½ blunt needles
- ✓ 2 x 25g butterflies
- ✓ 2 x alcohol prep pads
- ✓ 1 x personal sharps container
- ✓ 1 x information leaflet

This pack is for opioid/methadone clients or people injecting larger amounts of Methylphenidate with long injecting careers and difficult/fragile veins.



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# Other products

Additional equipment which are not in the packs includes:

- ✓ 26g needles
- ✓ Sterile water
- ✓ Tourniquets
- ✓ Return containers

For needle exchange programme clients only.



# Sharps Bin

- Sharps bins are supplied by Interwaste
- These are for NEP waste only
- A wall bracket is available on request
- Never handle used equipment
- Clients should be directed to the sharps bin to dispose of their own container.



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# Rebate

- Claim a rebate of \$2.00 + GST for each pack given to clients free
- \$0.20 for other needles
- Claim on a monthly basis via invoice
- Send to [rebate@nznep.org.nz](mailto:rebate@nznep.org.nz)
- Paid 20th month following invoice.





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# Educational Material

- Outlet Directory
- Injecting
- Veintenance
- Methamphetamines
- Steroids
- Opioids
- Filtering
- Hepatitis C –Little Yellow Book





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# Contact Us

Diane Annan - Manager, Pharmacy and Partner programme

[diane@nznep.org.nz](mailto:diane@nznep.org.nz)