

Factsheet NORWAY

This factsheet is part of the EMCDDA [Take-home naloxone – topic overview](#)

General information	Geographical coverage	Just over 40 municipalities with at least one distribution site each.
	Type of Intervention	Regular programme, part of the National overdose strategy (2019-2022)
	Starting year	2014 (as pilot project and then extended)
	Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * prison * in-patient detox/ rehab/ treatment * substitution treatment * low-threshold setting * <i>housing facilities such as shelters, halfway houses</i>
Regulatory challenges	Prescription	A waiver of need for individual prescription was implemented for naloxone products for nasal application.
	Distribution	Municipalities
	Administration	In an initial phase of the THN project, a nasal application tool was developed and officially approved by the Norwegian drugs regulatory authority, in terms of "new routes of administration of approved medicine". The currently used nasal spray is a nasal naloxone formulation that comes in a dispenser.
	Barriers	Outside the programme, naloxone can only be obtained through prescription.
Medication	Product used	Nyxoid® Ventizolve®
	Application	* nasal
	Content of THN Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * nasal spray dispensers * first aid instructions, e.g. emergency telephone number, ABC * other: <i>protective mask for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; carriers card, short manual printed on the syringe</i>
	Number of doses per kit	2
Distribution, refill and post-training monitoring	Distribution of THN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * on-site at low threshold agencies * on-site at outpatient treatment centers * on-site at inpatient treatment centers * to clients of OST programmes * in prison setting/on release * <i>Initial focus: users outside of formal drug-treatment</i>
	Mandatory training	Yes
	Content of training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * recognising overdose symptoms * overdose management * aftercare procedures * cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training * effects of naloxone * possible adverse reactions to naloxone * possible risks and benefits of THN-programme * application of naloxone * how to store naloxone * legal aspects * practicing of the skills trained Video used during the training: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlvpgT7o74U
	Training format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * brief training in low-threshold or waiting settings (up to 15 min.)* THN-training is part of a general overdose-management training * other: <i>training of existing staff to become trainers needs a 2-hour session</i>
	Content of	* reason for re-fill

	questionnaire for refill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * description of the drug emergency/ situation * ambulance involved * outcome of emergency * <i>the relationship with the victim, drugs used, location, interventions</i>
	Post-training monitoring	* interview or questionnaire when THN programme client returns for re-fill

Performance and resources	Inception and training development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * health professionals: 100% * physicians: 40% * administration: 160% <i>100% is full time position</i> 	
	Implementation and monitoring	N/A	
	Price of THN kits	38 EUR (kit containing Nyxoid) Nyxoid is also available with regular prescription and reimbursed. The individual receiving a prescription will then only need to pay 20€. 51 EUR (kit containing Ventizolve)	
	Source of funding	Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * integrated part of the general budget of the facility * specific national funding
		Training (if different)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * integrated part of the general budget of the facility * specific national funding

Additional information	Project reports, evaluations and scientific papers	<p>Lobmaier, P. P., & Clausen, T. (2016). Radical red tape reduction by government supported nasal naloxone: the Norwegian pilot project is innovative, safe and an important contribution to further development and dissemination of take-home naloxone. <i>Addiction</i>, 111(4), 586-587.</p> <p>Madah-Amiri, D., & Clausen, T. (2016). The use of public health infrastructure probably the best strategy for national and large-scale naloxone distribution programmes. <i>Addiction</i>, 111(7), 1309-1310.</p> <p>Madah-Amiri, D., Clausen, T., & Lobmaier, P. (2016). Utilizing a train-the-trainer model for multi-site naloxone distribution programs. <i>Drug Alcohol Depend</i>, 163, 153-156. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2016.04.007</p> <p>Madah-Amiri, D., 2017. <i>Opioid overdoses and overdose prevention: The establishment of take-home naloxone in Norway</i>. Thesis. SERAF, University of Oslo.</p> <p>Madah-Amiri, D., Clausen, T., & Lobmaier, P. (2017). Rapid widespread distribution of intranasal naloxone for overdose prevention. <i>Drug Alcohol Depend</i>, 173, 17-23. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2016.12.013</p> <p>Madah-Amiri, D., Clausen, T., Myrmel, L., Brattebo, G., & Lobmaier, P. (2016). Circumstances surrounding non-fatal opioid overdoses attended by ambulance services. <i>Drug Alcohol Rev</i>. doi:10.1111/dar.12451</p> <p>Madah-Amiri, D., Gjersing, L R., Clausen, T. (2019). Naloxone distribution and possession following a large-scale naloxone programme. <i>Addiction</i> 2019 ;Volume 114.(1) p. 92-100</p>		
		Training materials	https://www.nalokson.uio.no (in Norwegian)	
		Contacts	Philipp Lobmaier p.p.lobmaier@medisin.uio.no www.nalokson.uio.no	

Updated on 20 August 2020