

Factsheet SPAIN

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

General information	Geographical coverage	Catalonia
	Type of Intervention	regular programme implemented at regional level in Catalonia
	Starting year	2009 (preparations in 2008)
	Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * in-patient detox/ rehab/ treatment * substitution treatment * low-threshold setting * <i>drug consumption rooms</i> * <i>outreach programmes (squatters, open drug scene, mobile units,...)</i>

Regulatory challenges	Prescription	N/A
	Distribution	N/A
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Naloxone is provided for treatment within emergency medical services, and to professionals working in some harm reduction centres and drug consumption rooms for supply to people who use opioids. * Early reports point to 'underground' distribution of THN in Barcelona as early as 2001, which allegedly led to 60 successful overdose reversals (Trujols, 2001). However, medico-legal concerns prevented the authorisation of a take-home naloxone pilot study at the time.
	Barriers	Naloxone is not available within therapeutic communities, although staff do offer overdose prevention advice and information about the risks of lower tolerance. Future aims of the Catalonian programme is to expand take-home naloxone provision to prisons, maybe in intranasal spray presentation.

Medication	Product used	Naloxone (generic)
	Application	* injecting
	Content of THN Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ampoule and syringe set * first aid instructions, e.g. emergency telephone number, ABC * sterile cloth to prevent infection transmission during possible resuscitation * other injecting paraphernalia such as swab * other: <i>gloves, protection cloth for mouth-to-mouth technique</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
	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 * application of naloxone * how to store naloxone * legal aspects * practicing of the skills trained * other: <i>Overdose risk factors and prevention</i>
	Training format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * brief training in low-threshold or waiting settings (up to 15 min.) * standard training with structured teaching session: 1,5 hours and number of sessions: 1 * refresh sessions provided
	Content of questionnaire for refill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * reason for re-fill * description of the drug emergency/ situation * ambulance involved * outcome of emergency

		* <i>victim information: country of origin, age, drugs taken before OD</i>
	Post-training monitoring	* interview or questionnaire when THN programme client returns for re-fill * systematic follow-up with all THN recipients

Performance and resources	Inception and training development	N/A	
	Implementation and monitoring	N/A	
	Price of THN kits	€ 5,60/kit	
	Source of funding	Program	* integrated part of the general budget of the facility * specific regional or local funding
	Training (if different)	N/A	

Additional information	Project reports, evaluations and scientific papers	<p>Trujols, J. (2001), 'Take home naloxone: life-saving intervention, medico-legal concern and heroin users' competence', <i>BMJ</i> (322), pp. 895–6.</p> <p>Sarasa-Renedo, A., Espelt, A., Folch, C., Vecino, C., Majó, X., Castellano, Y., Casabona, J. and Brugal, M. T. (2014), 'Overdose prevention in injecting opioid users: The role of substance abuse treatment and training programs', <i>Gaceta Sanitaria</i> 28(2), pp. 146–54. (Available at http://scielo.isciii.es/pdf/gsv28n2/original7.pdf).</p> <p>Espelt, A., Major, X., Parés-badell, O., Carvajal, S., Vecino, C., Gasulla, L., Bosque-prous, M. and Brugal, M. T. (2013), 'Implementation of Systematic Programs of Overdose Training at Drug Treatment and Prevention Centres in Catalonia , 2008 – 2013 Implementation of Systematic Programs of Overdose Training in Catalonia 2008 – 2013', pp. 2008–13. (Available at http://drogues.gencat.cat/web/.content/minisite/drogues/noticies/actualitat/arxiu/Espelt-et-al_2015.pdf).</p>	
	Training materials	Majó, X., Ilundain, E. and Valverde, C. (2009), 'Manual per educar en prevenció i assistència a les sobredosis Adreçat als professionals', pp. 51. (Available at http://drogues.gencat.cat/web/.content/minisite/drogues/professionals/guies_i_manuales/arxius/manual_per_educar_en_prevencio_i_assistencia_a_les_sobredosis.pdf).	
	Contacts	National Reitox Focal Point for Spain Elena Álvarez Martín, Deputy Director of Institutional Relations relinstipnd@mscbs.es	

Updated on 19 August 2020.