

Factsheet LITHUANIA

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

General information	Geographical coverage	RCAD in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai, Panevezys; low threshold agencies in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Alytus, Visaginas
	Type of Intervention	Regular programme
	Starting year	2016: local pilot project Vilnius Centre for Addictive Disorders; 2018: expansion to other branches of the Republican Centre for Addictive Disorders (RCAD) 2019: pilot project at low-threshold agencies in three cities, later expanded to five cities 2020: pilot project for police officers, funded by Vilnius city Municipality (planned)
	Settings	* in- patient detox/ rehab/ treatment/ * low-threshold agencies * police station (only Vilnius, from Sept 2020)
Regulatory challenges	Prescription	Naloxone is provided at all branches of the Republican Centre for Addictive Disorders on prescription to patients leaving drug treatment. On the basis of the 'Resolution on naloxone provision in low-threshold services for the prevention of overdose' adopted in 2018, PWUD and their family members can obtain naloxone kits through a doctor's consultation at low-threshold agencies. Low-threshold agencies have to sign an agreement with a health care facility to allow their medical doctors to provide overdose response counselling and prescribe naloxone at the low-threshold agency.
	Distribution	Same as prescription.
	Administration	Allowed after counselling by medical doctor who prescribes naloxone.
	Barriers	As naloxone is a prescription drug, low-threshold agencies have to close an agreement with a health facility, whose medical doctor issues the prescription, MDs are required to complete a 2-hour training course before prescribing naloxone. A 6-month pilot project conducted in low-threshold services in the cities Kaunas, Klaipeda and Alytus in 2019 assessed implementation barriers and found that the prescription requirement by medical doctor limits the availability in this setting.
Medication	Product used	NALOXONE WZF POLFA ® NYXOID ® (100 kits for pilot programme with Vilnius police officers, starting in September 2020)
	Application	*injecting * nasal spray
	Content of THN Kit	* ampoule and syringe set * first aid instructions, e.g. emergency telephone number, ABC * nasal spray dispensers
	Number of doses per kit	2
Distribution, refill and post-training monitoring	Distribution of THN	* on-site at inpatient and outpatient treatment centers * low-threshold agencies (which have agreement with MD from health facilities for prescriptions)
	Mandatory training	Yes / during consultation with the medical doctor
	Content of training	recognising overdose symptoms overdose management aftercare procedures 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 other: <i>CPR is explained, but no practical training</i>
	Training format	* standard training for patients leaving drug treatment with structured teaching session: 1 hour. Number of sessions: 1 * refresh sessions provided (<i>can be attended at every in-patient treatment</i>)

		<i>programme</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trainings for trainers (providing naloxone to people leaving treatment) and for doctors (prescribing naloxone in low-threshold agencies): 2 hours • doctor's consultation for PWUD and family members who are receiving naloxone in low-threshold agencies: up to 15 minutes
	Content of questionnaire for refill	The questionnaire to be completed when naloxone is issued in harm reduction agencies, covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the reason for the refill? - Were you alone with the victim when you used the naloxone kit? - Where did the overdose happen? - Did you call an ambulance?
	Post-training monitoring	N/A

Performance and resources	Inception and training development	<i>harm reduction worker 40 hours/year</i>	
	Implementation and monitoring	staff: 48 hours/year; update of training material: 10 hours/year; monitoring of the programme is ongoing;	
	Price of THN kits	3 € / injecting naloxone kit; 48 € / nasal spray kit	
	Source of funding	Programme	* integrated part of the general budget of the facility * <i>project resources</i>
Training (if different)		* integrated part of the general budget of the facility * <i>project resources</i>	

Additional information	Project reports, evaluations and scientific papers	N/A	
	Training materials	N/A	
	Contacts	Survey respondent: Daniele Morgana morganaite@gmail.com Republican Centre for Addictive Disorders - http://www.rplc.lt Lina Jurgelaitiene lina.jurgelaitiene@ntakd.lt Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department of Lithuania – www.ntakd.lt	

Updated on 20 August 2020