

Factsheet ITALY

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

General information	Geographical coverage	National
	Type of Intervention	Naloxone distribution takes place at local health centers (ASL) and drugs services, but not in the framework of a programme
	Starting year	1991
	Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low-threshold setting <i>mobile street units</i>

Regulatory challenges	Prescription	In the early 1990s, individual medical doctors took responsibility for training harm reduction staff and making naloxone available for distribution among people who use drugs. In 1996, the Ministry of Health classified naloxone as an over-the-counter medication: it is a life-saving drug, for which no prescription is required.
	Distribution	Pharmacies are obliged to hold sufficient supplies, but cannot publicly display the medication on shelves to which costumers have direct access, and costumers need to request naloxone from the pharmacist.
	Administration	N/A
	Barriers	N/A

Medication	Product used	Naloxone cloridrato Hospira (generic) Naloxone cloridrato S.A.L.f. (generic)
	Application	injecting
	Content of THN Kit	ampoule and syringe set
	Number of doses per kit	N/A

Distribution, refill and post-training monitoring	Distribution of THN	on-site at low threshold agencies on-site at outpatient treatment centers on-site at inpatient treatment centers in pharmacies (<i>purchasing</i>) on customer request
	Mandatory training	No
	Content of training	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
	Training format	other: <i>individual sessions</i>
	Content of questionnaire for refill	N/A
	Post-training monitoring	N/A

Performance and resources	Inception and training development	Reducing fatal opioid overdose (Video) https://youtu.be/5JBQho8nw1k International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2018), 'Reducing fatal opioid overdose Preventing and treating heroin overdose : the Villa Maraini Foundation experience', pp. 28. (available at http://fileserv.idpc.net/library/Reducing_fatal_opioid_overdose_EN-WEB.pdf).	
	Implementation and monitoring	N/A	
	Price of THN kits	4,20 EUR (2016) increasing from 1,70 EUR in 2013 (Ronconi, 2017)	
	Source of funding	Programme	* specific regional or local funding
		Training (if different)	N/A

Additional information	Project reports, evaluations and scientific papers	<p>Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (2017) Relazione annuale al Parlamento anno 2016, (documents Naloxone distribution as part of harm reduction activities in Italy).</p> <p>Ronconi, S., Beccaria, F., Camposeragna, A., Rolando, S., Nencini, P. and Jarre, P. (2017), <i>Preventing opioid overdose deaths. A Research on the Italian naloxone distribution model - 2016</i>, Forum Droghe (available at http://idpc.net/publications/2017/02/preventing-opioid-overdose-deaths-research-on-the-italian-naloxone-distribution-model).</p> <p>Ronconi, S. (2018), 'The Italian naloxone distribution model – Lessons learned about an effective, sustainable and cheap harm reduction intervention', in <i>Leben retten mit Naloxon. Erfahrungen aus Deutschland, Europa und den US</i>, Fachhochschulverlag, Frankfurt, pp. 123–41.</p>
	Training materials	N/A
	Contacts	N/A

Updated on 20 August 2020