Naloxone Nasal Spray in Norway

Thomas Clausen
Professor (Dr. med)
thomas.clausen@medisin.uio.no

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Agenda

✓ Background
  – Naloxone: Part of national strategy

✓ Project
  – Prior to distribution
  – Distribution
  – Evaluation

✓ Success factors and obstacles

➢ Status per October 2014
Background

☑ Norway has high rates and numbers of overdoses and DRDs
☑ OMT coverage +/- 60%
☑ Increasing evidence: Take-home-Naloxone may reduce ODs

➢ No “standard” procedure or device
National Strategy

➢ April 2014; Minister of Health; launched national overdose prevention campaign

✔ 5-year overdose prevention strategy
   – 0-vision for ODs in the long-term
   – Includes multiple sub-strategies as well as funding
     • Nasal naloxone distribution one of these

Nasal naloxone: Project-structure

✓ Implementation in 2 largest cities
  ✓ 2-year pilot period

✓ Formal evaluation of project
  ✓ Is distribution feasible and does it work?
  ➢ Recommendations for future
Prior to distribution

✓ NOMA application; **Nasal** naloxone (April 2014)
  – Evidence mainly from US
  – Naloxone; «harmless» with high life-saving potential
  – Based on EU-MA medication (injectable)
  ➢ New route of administration vs off-label use

➢ NOMA approved (June 2014)
➢ 2mg/2ml – 5 dose - Prefilled syringe + Nasal adapter (MAD300) > No needles
  – Within project and timeframe
  – No individual prescription
Distribution: Oslo and Bergen

- Distribution within existing facilities
- Take-home-nasal naloxone
  - Low-threshold health and care facilities
  - Initial focus; users outside of formal drug-treatment

- Minister of health “distributed first kit” June 26th, 2014
Overdose Prevention Training

- Trained existing staff with a 2-hour session
  - Trained 195 staff as of (10/10-14)
- Total of 10 sites-
  - Housing facilities
  - Drop-in day centres
  - Services “on-wheels”

- Also included
  - Police
  - Family members/Relatives

- To be included:
  - Prior to prison release
  - Detoxification
  - OMT-centres
Training; Users

✓ Overdose prevention education
  – «Save your friend»
  – “Recruit your friend(s) to save you”
  – Risk factors

✓ Recognition of an overdose

✓ Response
  – Always call ambulance
  – Rescue breathing/ recovery position
  – Use of naloxone/Instruction
  – Aftercare
Training

✓ Taught to train in a dialogue format
✓ Aim for -10 minute sessions (users often in a hurry)
✓ Low threshold (no need for prescription, or ID)
✓ Available for anyone interested, “anytime”, free of charge

✓ Example; Table with info and “instant” distribution outside facilities
Evaluation project

Objective:
- To evaluate the impact of overdose prevention education with the distribution of naloxone nasal spray
- Evaluate feasibility and acceptability

Target groups:
- Drug users, friends, family, acquaintances, police
- Workforce at treatment facilities
Outcomes

✓ No. of overdoses, fatal and non-fatal
  – Collaboration ambulance services

✓ No. of kits distributed and its effect
  – Questionnaires from training and refills

✓ Link with registry data
  – Mortality, hospital attendance
  – Comparison with “non-distribution” areas
Status
13/10-14

• **456** naloxone kits distributed
  – 12 Police officers
  – 11 Relatives

• **76** returns for refills

➢ Aim to distribute **100 kits/100.000** in the two cities by first 6 months of project
  ➢ Aim; **900 sprays**, by end of year
Success factors

✓ Governmental support
✓ Part of national strategy
✓ Learning from others in the field
✓ Relying on existing healthcare facilities
✓ Involvement of user-groups
✓ NOMA approved nasal medication
✓ No individual prescriptions
✓ Engaged and creative key personnel
...and obstacles

✓ Getting general approval for a new route (nasal) of administration of Naloxone

✓ Cost; price per kit; 40€

✓ The Pharmaceutical industry; Martindale
  – Increased price to our project by 50% , after approval by NOMA

➢ Need for reliable, low-cost, user-friendly nasal device
“It feels good to tell our clients that I trust them to save someone’s life. I can see they feel empowered when I hand them the naloxone. Most of the time they go around, feeling like no one trusts them, but with this, I can show them that I think they can really save someone. It’s nice.”

-Staff member, Bergen
Feedback from client

[Upon her 3rd refill]

“It’s worked every time. I see he’s blue, and then within a few minutes he’s up standing! Should have had it sooner. I’ve seen too many of these [overdoses].”

- Client, drop-in center Bergen
Norwegian nasal naloxone
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Contact

thomas.clausen@medisin.uio.no
p.p.lobmaier@medisin.uio.no
desiree.madah-amiri@medisin.uio.no

www.stoppoverdose.no