

Information on short term substitution treatment services for visitors from abroad

Methadone/Buprenorphine Treatment: available

Currently (January 2016), there are 59 opioid substitution treatment units operating in Greece, 11 of which provide methadone treatment.

Methadone is only available in units in Athens and Thessaloniki (Salonica).

Buprenorphine is available in Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras, Alexandroupolis, Veroia, Volos, Kavala, Katerini, the island of Corfu, Komotini, Larissa, Preveza, Agrinio, Herakleio (Crete), Retymno (Crete), Chania (Crete), Kalamata, Leivadia, Chalkida and the Island of Rhodes.

Soon further treatment units will be established in other cities /places/parts of Greece.

Information on how to arrange continued dosing:

1. The patient (or his legal representative) must send an application to one of the two Admission Centers, one located in Athens, the other one located in Thessaloniki - continued dosing/treatment must not be arranged directly via a treatment unit - mentioning that s/he wishes to receive methadone or buprenorphine while staying in Greece and providing the dates of arrival and departure:

Athens Admission, Information and Orientation Centre (KYEP),

3rd Septemvriou 21 str., 104 32, Athens, Greece

Phone: 0030 210 5201985, 0030 210 5200391

Fax: 0030 210 5229224

e-mail: yyae@okana.gr

Thessaloniki Admission, Information and Orientation Centre (KYEPTH)

Anagenisseos 44A str., 546 27, Thessaloniki (Salonica), Greece

Phone: 0030 2310 566134, 0030 2310 566135

Fax: 0030 2310 525348

e-mail: kyepthes@okana.gr

2. Together with the application patients must send in a medical certificate from their home prescribing doctor/clinic which clearly documents that they participate in opioid substitution treatment. The certificate must contain information on for how long a patient has been enrolled in treatment, the

current medication and daily dose, other medical conditions and their regimen, and any other useful information according to the doctor's judgement.

3. The certificate must be in the original and up-to-date. It should be certified by the health authority responsible at the patient's place of residence in his/her home country or a Greek embassy or consulate. If a patient is already in Greece when applying for continued dosing, then the authenticity of the doctor's signature should be certified by his country's consulate or embassy, or, otherwise, the Greek Ministry of Foreign affairs.

4. If the certificate is written in English, German or French, no formal translation is required. Certificates in other languages must formally be translated.

5. The documents sent in are studied by a special committee and the proceedings will be signed by the General Director of OKANA

6. After receipt of the application and the medical certificate the whole procedure takes three days. Then the patient will be informed on the decision and on which treatment unit will be prepared to continue dosing. We strongly advise to send in applications at least one month before a planned journey to Greece.

7. Continued dosing is possible for one month. Dosing can be extended for another four weeks, but in such a case patients must apply for continued dosing again.

8. Patients from European Union member countries have to follow special steps when planning to permanently stay in Greece and in opioid substitution treatment (for further info contact us).

Further Contact Addresses:

Konstantinos Kokkolis, Psychiatrist, Scientific Director of OKANA Programms Implementation, Greek Organization Against Drugs (OKANA), 21 Averof str., 104 33, Athens, Greece, Tel.: 0030 210 8898311, Fax: 0030 210 8898239, e-mail: okana_programs@okana.gr

Dr. Konstantinos Gazgalides, Psychiatrist, Co-ordinator of OKANA Services in Northern Greece, 44A Anagenisseos str., 546 27, Thessaloniki, Greece, Tel.: 0030 2310 545336, Fax: 0030 2310 545352, e-mail: syntonbe@okana.gr