

Oversight Visit to the MMT Center in Korça

Date of visit: October 14, 2016

Members of the CCM Oversight Committee:

Skender Fifo; Members of OC

Klevis Hoxhaj; Members of OC

Marjeta Dervishi; Member of OC

Responsible for Planning and Reporting; Skender Fifo

Staff present at MMT Center in Korça:

Part-time Physician

Part-time Psychology

Methadone's Infrastructure and Assurance and Distribution and Situation with Rapid Tests:

The MMT Center in Korça was created about 5 years ago in the premises near the Mental Health Center in order to serve people who use narcotic drugs of the heroine type, especially those with injection.

The same staff continues to work in this center as last year part-time two persons a virologist practitioner, attached to the center by the staff of MHC who offers all the services and a psychologist. What is worth mentioning is to be a staffed, disciplined, and correct working hours set for providing Methadone to this center for its clients.

The number of clients providing services in this center is 45, supported by FGATM 20 of whom are treated with Methadon tablet and 25 customers with liquefied methadone.

Even in this center, other demands for access to Methadone treatment therapy are on the rise and cases are referred to in Tirana or treated for a short time, about two weeks without being designated as new patients (according to An agreement with foreign consultants of FG). In the center are also clients from neighboring districts such as Leskovikë, Pogradecë, etc. where the need for Methadon therapy is increasing

In the center, a recording system is provided on daily therapy, monthly input and output reporting, stock status and methadone consumption according to a well-defined procedure

with the MMT center in Tirana. Client-centered moves are dynamic, the reasons for the problems with the police, which lead to disconnection from therapy, while not creating continuity in treatment.

Supply with Methadon is provided by the MMT center in Tirana, which also conducts periodic monitoring of the center. Trainings, and knowledge updates are provided from the center of Tirana. Also, quick tests, condoms, brochures and urine tests for heroin are offered.

During this year, it was found the lack of Methadone tablet, and in its place was offered liquid Methadon provided by agreements drafted with the Ministry of Health of Kosovo. At the time of the visit, the supply center with Methadon 20mg provided with Aksion Plus funds was expected in the center.

Methadone is stored and stored in good storage conditions and is always within the expiration date. Center clients receive the appropriate doses, determined in collaboration with the doctor in accordance with their individual needs. There was no rapid testing for HIV and SST due to the lack of quick kit.

Funding issue;

Staff payments are received on time and they are carried out through bank transfers to their personal accounts. An increased concern remains low staff payments, which motivated the lack of motivation to expand the program of their activities. Lack of funds justifies the lack of activities that the center could offer and be more active especially in the field of awareness and promotion.

Work and efforts to contact foreign donors for center support and fundraising have been intensified.

Collaborations

The MMT Center in Korça has very good cooperation and support from local, health, probation service, state police, local media and TV, as well as local government.

The visit reports a very good co-operation and referral system with local structures in Korça as well as in Tirana with other specialized centers such as IPH, Department of Toxicology-Adictology Service, VCT Center and Psychological Service.

Target population and work with them;

In general, staff is prepared to provide the required services, despite the increased inflow and increasing demands for methadone support therapy. It should be borne in mind that the target with which work comes from the most marginalized groups and the poorest parts of the population is problematic, in a difficult economic and social situation, unemployed and often violent.

For each client, a personal file was created, with data obtained during meetings and interviews with a volunteer doctor and psychologist. The client, together with the physician and a close family member, signs a form of consent and acceptance for the terms and conditions of the maintenance therapy. It also provides information and cases where there are complaints to the service and is provided with the appropriate information to be provided when referring to the center of Tirana or to other institutions

Recommendations for the Oversight Committee as well as CCM Albania:

Given the current needs for funding and services coverage and the shortcomings in providing drug-reducing services to drug users, it is seen the opportunity to draft long-term plans and programs to cover these services with sustainable funding and why not by the state institutions. This requires a detailed lobbying and Albania's CCM can play a key role in both compiling the relevant documentation and the expertise it can provide.

Despite support and funding from the GFATM project, staffing is needed, especially the psychologist service and nursing service, as well as more favorable infrastructure conditions to cope with the flow of clients and improve the quality of services. In addition to the need for staff, especially the psycho-social, a computer is needed for the electronic register of clients, funds for the Internet, and other daily expenses.