

Alcohol dependence assessment, managing withdrawal in detoxification and treatment

Aim

- To understand alcohol dependence, withdrawal and detoxification and how to clinically manage these conditions and processes.

Learning Objectives

The participant will:

- Learn about alcohol dependence, diagnosis, precipitation, and prognosis for condition with and without treatment
- Understand signs and symptoms of withdrawal from alcohol, including differentiation from other substance withdrawal and diagnoses
- Understand individual's experience of alcohol dependence and alcohol withdrawal symptoms
- Develop a broad understanding of investigations, tests and associated health issues for individuals with alcohol dependence, including Liver Function Tests (LFTs)
- Build up knowledge around alcohol-related and alcohol-complicated conditions
- Explore associated conditions including Wernicke's Encephalopathy and Korsakoff's Psychosis, re-feeding syndrome, seizures, and Delirium Tremens (DT)
- Be equipped to complete a Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol (CIWA-Ar)
- Practice conducting CIWA-Ar through action-learning as a group
- Develop knowledge of medication options, including effects, side effects, contraindications and best practice prescribing guidance during and post detox
- Learn about observations used to determine overall health during a detoxification (pulse, blood pressure, respiration rate)
- Explore the best practice pathway and consider how to integrate this into their own practice
- Understand wider alcohol treatment needs including psychosocial interventions beyond detoxification with medication.

Competencies

1. Assessing and addressing individual's needs	
AF1.2014	Carry out screening and referral assessment in a substance misuse setting
AF3.2014	Carry out comprehensive assessment for alcohol and other substances
SCDHSC0025	Contribute to implementation of care or support plan activities
AB5.2014	Assess and act upon immediate risk of danger to individuals who have used alcohol and other substances
AH7.2014	Support individuals through detoxification regimes
2. Education, and promotion/protection of public health	
AD1.2012	Raise awareness about substances, their use and effects
AD1.1	Identify individuals' knowledge and values about substances, their use and effects
AD1.2	Increase individuals' knowledge and understanding of substances, their use and effects
AH10.2014	Work with individuals to encourage a reduction in harmful alcohol consumption and drinking behaviour
HSC35	Promote choice, well-being and the protection of all individuals
3. Education and learning around health	
HSC33	Reflect on and develop your practice