



New for SMMGP and FDAP members

SMMGP Premium Members have access to [quality CPD](#) by clinical experts in the drug and alcohol field. Premium members can join live webinars, and access past recorded ones.

Premium Members can watch again our recent webinars on *Gambling, Working with co-morbidities, and Working with benzodiazepines*.

Keep up-to-date with the latest research with our [August Clinical Update](#) compiled focusing on dual diagnosis for us by [The Mental Elf](#), including summaries and commentary from experts in the field including **Linda Gask, Emerita Professor of Primary Care Psychiatry at the University of Manchester** and **Harry Sumnall, Professor in Substance Use, Liverpool John Moores University**. Here's a taster:

New NICE guidance on dual diagnosis: sterile or infectious?

NICE (2016) Severe mental illness and substance misuse (dual diagnosis) – community health and social care services. [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#).

Will the NICE dual diagnosis guidance inspire practitioners to act? The guidance has many strengths. It recognises the frequent physical problems this client group face and the inadequate service response. It acknowledges that staff often stigmatise people with a dual diagnosis. It recognises that having separate funding streams for the commissioning of mental health services and substance misuse hampers integration of these services. It also attempts to provide some economic evaluation for the field, although this part of the guidance has several limitations.

Commentary by Ian Hamilton, Lecturer in Mental Health in the Department of Health Sciences at York University

This new NICE guidance infers values and actions that are determined by inclusiveness, fairness and equity. However, the guidance itself is sterile and uninspiring. People with substance use and mental health problems miss out because they don't readily fit in. The guidance is good, but it needs to instil more than willingness on the part of services to implement its recommendations. Ultimately, the problems are less technical and more human.

We don't know how many people have a combined mental health and substance use problem; frequently referred to as dual diagnosis. The last decade has produced a large quantity of research into co-existing mental health and substance use problems. It has revealed the effectiveness of harm reduction, an approach that was previously viewed as condoning substance use. With the emphasis now firmly placed on recovery not retention in substance misuse services, there's a strong suggestion that harm reduction will again become viewed as negative.

To access the [Clinical Update](#) become a Premium Member. Payment for SMMGP Premium Membership is quarterly by direct debit or annually by PayPal. [Sign up now!](#)

FDAP members: FDAP is the professional body for the substance misuse field. *All individual, paid-up FDAP members automatically receive access to our SMMGP Premium Membership CPD programme.* To join, or to renew your membership, please contact us on: fdap@smmgp.org.uk

On the [SMMGP website](#), we regularly publish new articles on a range of topics of interest to all our members. If you would like to write an article for SMMGP on your research or an area of expertise, please drop us an email on: fdap@smmgp.org.uk Articles on our website are widely distributed in the field.

New articles on our website

[Report Illicit Drug Reactions](#) Read about Public Health England's "yellow card" system to Report Illicit Drug Reactions (RIDR). On 22 March 2017, PHE launched a pilot of a national system for reporting the adverse effects of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other illicit drugs.

[SMMGP Response to the Drug Strategy](#) Whilst many of the Drug Strategy's ambitions are good, it frustratingly does not provide a realistic direction for how they will be delivered.

[Alcohol and nutrition among homeless people: two sides of the same coin](#)

New research finds nutrient deficiencies in heavy drinking homeless people, but evidence is limited. Health complications caused by nutritional deficiencies in homeless problem-drinkers can be avoided if they are addressed early, writes Dr Sharea Ijaz and Zoe Trinder-Widdess, NIHR CLAHRC West, Bristol

SMMGP London workshop: opioid substitution treatment (OST): more choices, better outcomes.

FREE EVENT in London for GPs, Allied Health Practitioners, CCG drug leads
Wednesday 27.09.17

The aims of the workshop are to improve and refresh knowledge of Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) choices and how to improve outcomes for people who use drugs problematically, by reviewing the evidence base for OST, making delegates aware of the range of treatments and how to use them. [Apply here](#). **Places are going fast.**

The new Clinical Guidelines are here! See our [news and events page](#) for the link, and watch out for our e-learn module summarising the key points: which include prison-based treatment, new psychoactive substances and club drugs, mental health co-morbidity, misuse of prescribed and over-the-counter medicines, smoking cessation, and preventing drug-related deaths, naloxone provision.

Book for our popular joint conference with the RCGP

[RCGP/SMMGP conference](#) "Managing Drug and Alcohol Problems in Primary Care" Friday 3rd November - the programme for this conference is now available. It is "full house" every year - book now!

From the SMMGP Team



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