

Title Palliative care for people with problematic substance use -workshop.

Authors: Chris Holmwood¹, Emma Burns², Kathryn Pearce³

All three presenters will be facilitating the workshop.

Emails cholmwood@ozemail.com.au
 emma.burns@sa.gov.au
 kathryn.pearce@sa.gov.au

Affiliations

¹ previously Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia

² Central Adelaide Palliative Care Service

³ Central Adelaide Palliative Care Service

Background: Palliative care for people with substance use problems presents challenges. Promotion of autonomy and dignity, optimizing symptom relief, while managing medication risks requires good communication and at times creative coordination of care. Clinicians often must revert to first principles to determine the best way forward. Clinical practice guidelines are lacking¹.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention: The workshop will enable participants to better understand the principles underlying palliative care for people with substance use problems and will understand a framework for approaching these clinical scenarios.

A case will be presented (an amalgam of situations faced in the presenters' practice) in an iterative manner, with small groups discussing various aspects of management, then reviewing in plenary with panel.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation: The National Palliative Care Standards² advocate that the needs of a broad range of underserved populations are addressed. Participants will be able to advocate that their local services address the specific needs of people with substance use problems, using the lessons learnt from the workshop.

Conclusion and Next Steps: From the workshop participants will understand a framework for approaching these clinical scenarios. They will have a recommended reading list, and some supportive resources.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: No external funding was used in the development of this workshop, or in related program development.

¹ Witham G, Galvani S, Peacock M. End of life care for people with alcohol and drug problems: Findings from a Rapid Evidence Assessment. Health Soc Care Community. 2019 Sep;27(5):e637-e650. doi: 10.1111/hsc.12807. Epub 2019 Jul 11. PMID: 31293028.

² Palliative Care Australia 2018, National Palliative Care Standards 5th edn, PCA, Canberra