

# ADDICTION MEDICINE

**Bridging The Gaps**  
**MAY 24, 2018**

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## Objectives

- Definition
- Epidemiology
- Disease model
- Natural History
- Addictions Medicine Consult Team
- AMCT Needs Assessment
- Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale

## DSM V definition

1. Substance often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period of time than intended.
2. Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use.
3. Great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain, use, or recover from the effects of using.
4. Craving, or a strong desire to use.
5. Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school or home.
6. Continued use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of using
7. Important social, occupational or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of use.
8. Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous
9. Continued use despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by using.

## DSM V cont'd

10. \*Tolerance, as defined by either of the following:
  - (a) need for markedly increased amounts used to achieve intoxication or desired effect
  - (b) markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount
11. \*Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following:
  - (a) the characteristic withdrawal syndrome
  - (b) the same (or a closely related) substance taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms

## Definition of Addiction: the 4 C's

- Compulsive drug use/behaviour
- Inability to Control use/behaviour
- Continued use/behaviour despite negative Consequences
- Craving to use even after becoming abstinent

## Compulsive Use

1. Substance often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period of time than intended.
2. Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use
3. Great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain, use, or recover from the effects of using.
4. Craving, or a strong desire to use.
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## Loss of Control

1. Substance often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period of time than intended.
2. Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use.
3. Great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain, use, or recover from the effects of using.
4. Craving, or a strong desire to use.
5. Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school or home.
6. Continued use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of using
7. Important social, occupational or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of use.
8. Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous
9. Continued use despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by using.

## Use Despite Consequences

1. Substance often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period of time than intended.
2. Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use.
3. Great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain, use, or recover from the effects of using.
4. Craving, or a strong desire to use.
5. Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school or home.
6. Continued use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of using.
7. Important social, occupational or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of use.
8. Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous
9. Continued use despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by using.

## Craving

1. Substance often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period of time than intended.
2. Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use.
3. Great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain, use, or recover from the effects of using.
4. Craving, or a strong desire to use.
5. Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school or home.
6. Continued use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of using
7. Important social, occupational or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of use.
8. Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous
9. Continued use despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by using.

## Severity

- 2-3 = mild
- 4-5 = moderate
- 6-7 = severe

## What happened to 'Addiction'?

- 2-3 = mild
- 4-5 = moderate
- 6-7 = severe

## Addiction

- 2-3 = mild
- 4-5 = moderate
- **6-7 = severe**

## Who Is An Addict?

“Our whole life and thinking was centered in drugs in one form or another—the getting and using and finding ways and means to get more. We lived to use and used to live. Very simply, an addict is a man or woman whose life is controlled by drugs. We are people in the grip of a continuing and progressive illness whose ends are always the same: jails, institutions, and death”

*the Little White Booklet, Narcotics Anonymous 1986*

## Dependence

- 10. \*Tolerance, as defined by either of the following:
  - (a) need for markedly increased amounts used to achieve intoxication or desired effect
  - (b) markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount
- 11. \*Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following:
  - (a) the characteristic withdrawal syndrome
  - (b) the same (or a closely related) substance taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms

## Pseudoaddiction:

- Both Tolerance and Withdrawal will occur in any patient consuming long-term opioids for whatever reason
- Tolerance and Withdrawal are neither *necessary* nor *sufficient* to diagnose addiction.

## Epidemiology of Addiction

- 1 in 5 Canadians experience mental illness in their lifetime; of these, 20% have a co-occurring substance use problem
- 1 in 10 Canadians report symptoms consistent with illicit drug dependence

Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey 2009



## Epidemiology

- An estimated 25% of male drinkers and 9% of female drinkers meet criteria for high-risk drinking
- 200,000 Canadians are currently addicted to painkillers
- \$40 Billion are spent on addiction-related injuries and treatment a year in Canada

[www.camh.ca](http://www.camh.ca)

## Mortality

- Unintentional overdose is the leading cause of accidental death, killing more Americans than car accidents.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC grand rounds: prescription drug overdoses—a U.S. epidemic. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2012;61(1):10–13.

## Addiction in Hospitals

- 36% of hospitalized pts smoke cigarettes
- 20% drink alcohol hazardously
- 8% use illicit drugs
- 4% use illicit opioids

Liebschutz et al Buprenorphine treatment for hospitalized, opioid-dependent patients *JAMA Intern Med.* 2014;174(8):1369-1376

## Complications of IDU

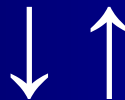
- Direct consequences:
  - Intoxication
  - Overdose
  - Withdrawal
- Infectious:
  - Soft-tissue
  - Endocarditis
  - Spinal/orthopaedic
- Trauma:
  - Sustained while intoxicated
  - Related to procurement
- Psychiatric:
  - Psychosis
  - Suicidality

## Start with Harm Reduction

1. Don't use
2. Use safe(r) alternative
3. If using, don't inject
4. If injecting, reduce risks
  - Don't share needles, use clean works, clean skin
5. Reduce risks of OD (naloxone)

## Treatment Continuum

- Harm reduction → needle exchange, substitution



- Abstinence → residential treatment, 12-step programs, naltrexone

## Disease Model: evidence

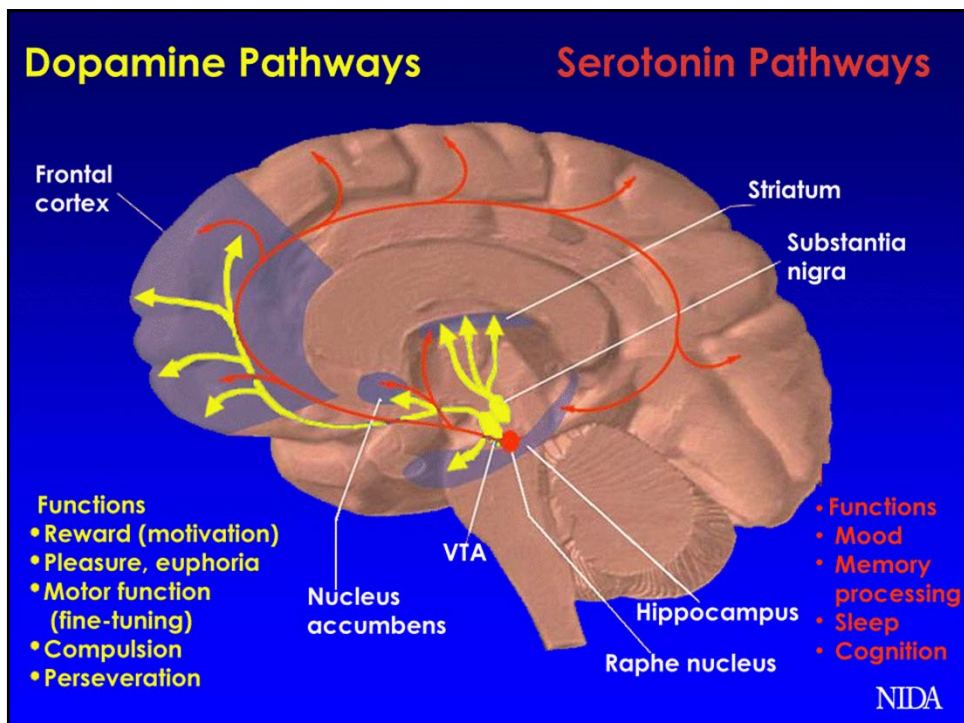
1. **Consistent Medical History, Signs and Symptoms**  
(across ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic boundaries)
2. **Strong Tendency to Relapse** (despite long periods of abstinence)
3. **Cravings** (induces use despite powerful social sanctions & effects contrary to patient's own interests)
4. **Pathophysiologic Changes in the Brain** following continuous exposure (D2 receptors, glucose metabolism, twin studies, PET scan studies)

## Disease Model

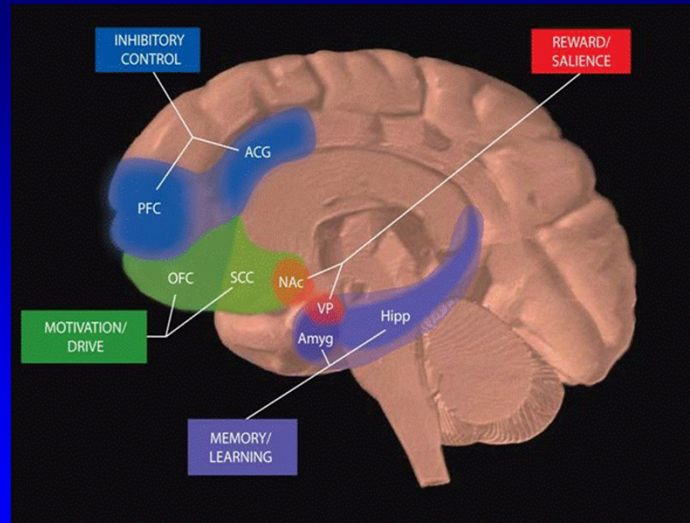
- "It is estimated that 40 – 60% of the vulnerability to addiction is attributable to genetic factors"
- *Volkow ND, Li TK, Drug Addiction: the Neurobiology of Behavior gone Awry*
  - *In: Principles of Addiction Medicine 2010*

## Disease Model

Substance	Locus/product
Alcohol	ADH1B, ALDH2, GABRG3, GABRA2, Per2, Neuropeptide Y, DRD2 (A1 allele), Htr1b, IL10, BDNF, 5HTT/SERT, DAT1
Nicotine	CYP450 2A6, CHRN A5/A3/B4
Opioids	CYP450 2D6, OPRM1, COMT, Creb
Cocaine	Htr1b, DRD2, DAT1, 5HTT/SERT
Barbiturates	Mpdz



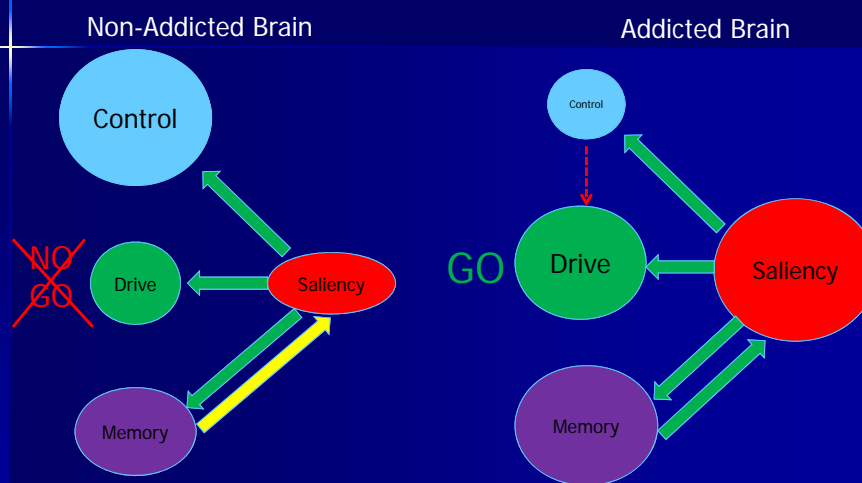
## *Circuits Involved In Drug Abuse and Addiction*



**All of these brain regions must be considered in developing strategies to effectively treat addiction**

NIDA

## Why Can't Addicts Just Quit?



**Because Addiction Changes Brain Circuits**

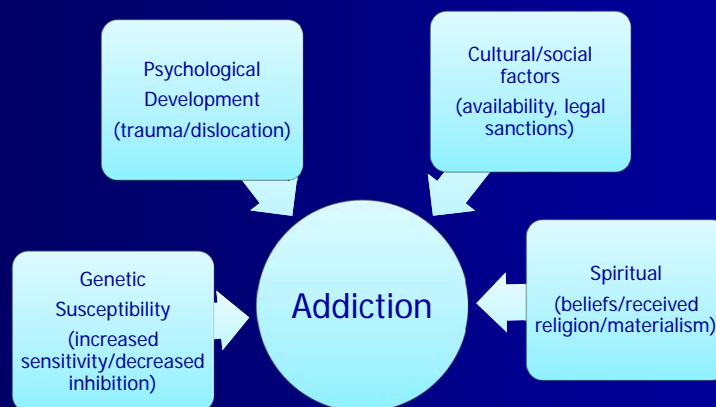
Adapted from Volkow et al., Neuropharmacology, 2004

## Disease Model?!

- “In our detailed study of over 17,000 middle-class American adults of diverse ethnicity, we found that the compulsive use of nicotine, alcohol, and injected street drugs increases proportionally in a strong, graded, dose-response manner that closely parallels the intensity of adverse life experiences during childhood... **Our findings are disturbing to some because they imply that the basic causes of addiction lie within *us* and the way we treat each other, not in drug dealers or dangerous chemicals**”.

■ *Felitti, VJ. The Origins of Addiction: Evidence from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. 2004*

## Biopsychosocialspiritual Model



## Natural History

“...substance abuse exacts a considerable toll on Canadian society in terms of morbidity and mortality, accounting for 21% of deaths, 23% of years of potential life lost, and 8% of hospitalizations.”

*Am J Public Health 1999;89:385-390*

## Natural History

(of addiction over 20 year study period)

- ~1/3 achieves abstinence;
- ~1/3 dies prematurely;
- ~1/3 cycles:

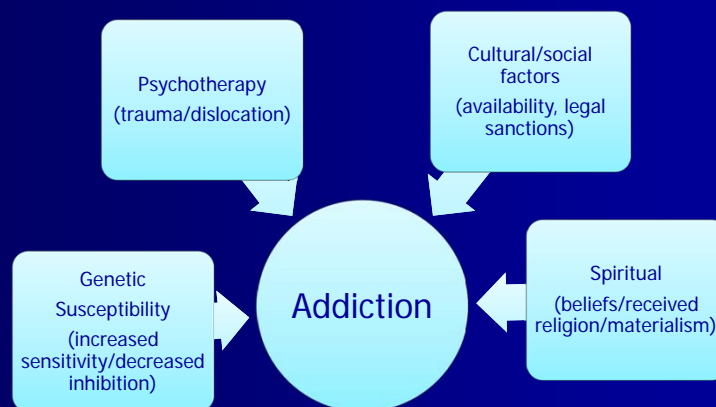




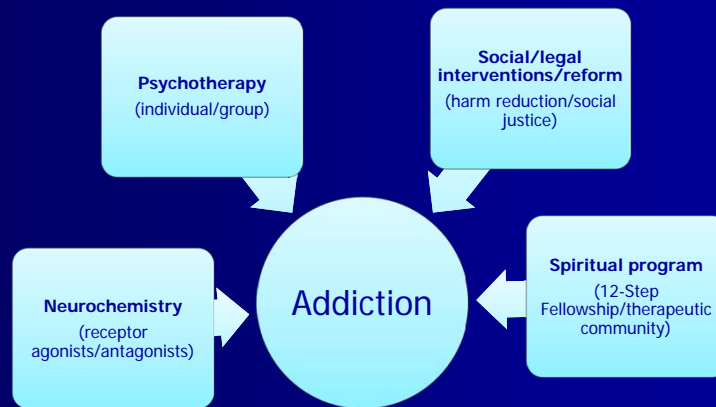
## Natural History

In other words: “...jails, institutions, and death”

## Biopsychosocialspiritual Model





## Approaches to Treatment:



## Opioid addiction: an 'epidemic'?

- 200,000 Canadians currently addicted to painkillers
- Since 2005 the number of Ontarians
  - seeking treatment for Rx opioid abuse has **DOUBLED**
  - in Methadone Maintenance Therapy has **TRIPLED**





- "OxyContin and other opioids tied to 1 in 8 deaths in young adults, Ontario study shows" A. Zofar, *CBC News* Jul 7, 2014
- "Doctors' groups agree painkillers are overprescribed" C. Weeks, *The Globe and Mail* Monday October 6, 2014
- "Opioid crisis strikes 'close to home' for many, poll says" Nicole Ireland, *CBC News* January 11, 2018
- "It's time for an all-out war on fentanyl in Canada" Editorial, *The Globe and Mail*, February 16, 2018

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OBSTETRICS

## Infants Born to Opioid-Dependent Women in Ontario, 2002–2014

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Greg Davies, MD;<sup>4</sup> Adam Newman, MD;<sup>5</sup> Ana Johnson, PhD, MEcon;<sup>3,6</sup>  
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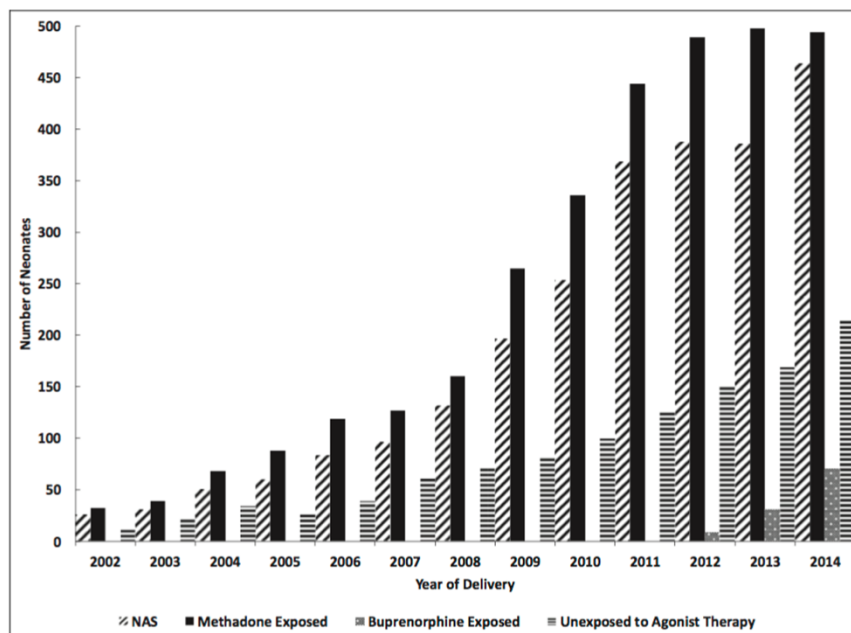
### Abstract

**Background:** There is a paucity of data characterizing mother-infant pairs with prenatal opioid dependence in Canada. We therefore conducted a study of relevant births in Ontario from 2002 to 2014.

### Résumé

**Contexte :** Vu le manque de données caractérisant les couples mère-enfant avec une dépendance prénatale aux opioïdes au Canada, nous avons mené une étude sur les naissances pertinentes en Ontario de 2002 à 2014.

Figure 1. Number of infants born to opioid-dependent pregnant women in Ontario by prenatal opioid agonist therapy exposure and NAS, 2002–2014.



## Where are we now?

- Currently NO Addictions Team at KGH
  - Akin to having no psychiatry or palliative care service at a tertiary hospital
- No standard of care for addictions
- Rarely referrals to outpatient therapy

## The Patient Experience

- Frequently stigmatized
- Often deemed drug seeking or difficult
- People with addictions have pain too!
  - Their pain often not addressed, under investigated or undertreated
- Scared with few helpful coping strategies other than using substances
- Looking for ways to acquire their drug of choice while in hospital to manage cravings and withdrawal

## Physician Experience



## Physician Experience

- Physicians prioritize the admitting dx
- The patient often prioritizes their symptoms of discomfort (pain, cravings, or withdrawal)
- Most physicians have not been specifically trained in addiction and find it overwhelming to try and manage this issue without support

## Hospital Experience

- Patients with SUD frequently leave against medical advice and are admitted repeatedly for diagnoses related to their substance use
- Long hospital stays (6 weeks of antibiotics for infective endocarditis), repeated ER visits and readmissions are extremely expensive for the hospital and healthcare system
  - An estimate of an endocarditis patient's cost to the healthcare system is **\$154 494.00**

## Enter: The AMCT!

- The Core Team: practitioners with experience and interest in Addictions Medicine
  - Shannon Ernst, MSW, RSW
  - Dr. Louise Good, MD CCFP
  - Dr. Priya Gupta, MD, MPH, CCFP
  - Dr. Raistlin Majere, MD (FRCPC – in four days!)
  - Dr. Adam Newman, MD CCFP



## AMCT

- What we can do: currently
  - In depth in-hospital addictions assessment
  - Initiation of opioid agonist therapy (OAT) with methadone or suboxone
  - Assessment and co-management of concurrent mental health disorders
  - Collaborative management of pain syndromes
  - Opioid stewardship
  - Psychosocial interventions to promote coping skills, education and adherence to medical interventions
  - Assistance with basic needs such as housing, income, OHIP, legal issues
  - Connection to outpatient addiction services
  - Transition to outpatient care by liaising with patient's family physician

# AMCT

## ■ What we can do: in the near future

- Peer support programs by patients with lived experience
- Harm reduction strategies such as providing clean needles to IVDU patients and putting sharps containers in all the rooms
- Comfort care such as food/snacks, warm socks, lounge area
- In-services for healthcare professionals in addiction care (use of COWS, OAT induction)

## ■ We have expanded to include:

- Two more family doctors with expertise in addiction medicine
- The head of General Internal Medicine at KHSC
- A psychiatrist working in concurrent disorders

# AMCT

## ■ What we have:

- A grassroots organization with motivated practitioners
- Ideological and logistical support from The Department of Medicine
- Growing support from admitting services at KGH
- The opportunity to speak to you ☺

## ■ What we need:





## AMCT Future

### ■ Our vision – in Phases

#### Phase 1: Establishment and consultation

Small team, non-admitting service, consultation and co-management for inpatients, some involvement of learners, development of pathways and protocols, data tracking

#### Phase 2: Expansion and Teaching

Larger team, permanent/full-time staff, **phone consultation for community physicians**, adoption of medical curriculum for medical students and residents

#### Phase 3: Residential Care and Outpatient Services

Inpatient management of SUD, medical detox, step-down unit, Centre for Excellence in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders

## We need your help!

- Need to show the hospital needs us
- Needs Assessment
  - June 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Hospitalwide – ALL departments!
  - Survey forms identify patients that would benefit from our service
  - Please recommend MRPs sign these!

Kingston Health  
Sciences Centre  
Centre des sciences de  
la santé de Kingston

AMCT Needs Assessment Form

I

**WHY ARE WE DOING THIS SURVEY?** We are a group of clinicians at Kingston Health Sciences Centre who believe that our hospital would benefit from the establishment of an Addictions Medicine Consult Team. We invite you to participate in this survey to help us determine the demand for such a service for inpatients at our hospital. No information that can identify you will be recorded on this survey, and there will be no negative consequences for you whether or not you chose to complete a survey. Please complete one survey for each patient you are currently caring for who you think would benefit from Addiction Medicine Services. ~~This study has been reviewed for ethical compliance by the Queen's University Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board.~~ If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Dr. Adam Newman at 613-532-1786. If you have any concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact Dr. Albert Clark, Chair of the Queen's University Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board at 1-844-535-2988. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Date:  
Admitting Service:  
Patient CR#

1. Do you currently have any patients that you think have a substance use disorder or addiction?  
Yes No Patient Age: Patient Gender:

2. If yes, is the patient currently admitted for a problem related to their addiction?  
Yes No Admitting dx:

3. If yes, do you currently feel it is out of your scope or expertise to deal with the addiction issue?  
Yes No

4. If yes, do you think their care would benefit from consultation with an addiction specialist?  
Yes No

Kingston Health  
Sciences Centre  
Centre des sciences de  
la santé de Kingston

AMCT Needs Assessment Form

5. Which of the following substance(s) is your patient addicted to? (Select all that apply):


- Opioids (heroin, ~~hydromorphone~~, morphine, fentanyl ~~etc~~)
- Cocaine/crack
- Chrystal meth
- Benzodiazepines
- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Tobacco
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. If an Addiction Medicine Consult Team were available at this facility, which of the following services would you and/or your patients benefit from? (Select all that apply)

- Initiation of opioid agonist therapy (methadone or ~~suboxone~~)
- Titration or management of existing opioid agonist therapy (methadone or ~~suboxone~~)
- Management of opioids for pain
- Medical management of alcohol use disorder (Naltrexone, ~~Acamprosate~~)
- Medical withdrawal management (any substance)
- Connection to outpatient addiction care
- Behavioural management while in hospital (needle use, frequent visitors, aggression, non-compliance or non-cooperation, leaving AMA)
- Assisting with basic needs (safe housing, income, OHIP, legal matters)
- Counselling
- Discharge planning
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

# AMCT Orders

- We are developing our own ordersets
- The first is:
  - Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale
  - Similar to CIWA (but for opioids)
  - Critical to managing opioid addictions



Centre des sciences de  
la santé de Kingston

Patient Identification Label

### CLINICAL OPIATE WITHDRAWAL SCALE (COWS)

See over for scoring instructions  
 Score: 5 to 12 is mild    13 to 24 is moderate    25 to 36 is moderately severe    36 or more is severe withdrawal

Date <small>DD/MM/YYYY</small>	Time <small>HH:MM</small>	Assessment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Resting Pulse Rate																															
		Sweating																															
		Restlessness																															
		Pupil Size																															
		Bone or Joint Aches																															
		Runny Nose or Tearing																															
		Gastrointestinal Upset																															
		Tremor																															
		Yawning																															
		Anxiety or Irritability																															
		Gooseflesh Skin																															
		<b>Total Score</b>																															
		Initials																															

**Signature Record**

Printed Name	Designation	Signature	Initials

Original/Trial 2018/03

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Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS)  
Scan to IP Assessment Nursing

Kingston Health Sciences Centre Centre des sciences de la santé de Kingston		Patient Identification Label
<b>Scoring Instructions</b>		
<b>Resting Pulse Rate</b> _____ beats/minute <i>Measured after patient is sitting or lying for one minute</i> 0 - pulse rate 60 or below 1 - pulse rate 61 to 100 2 - pulse rate 101 to 120	<b>Gastrointestinal Upset</b> <i>Over last half hour</i> 0 - no upset 1 - stomach cramps 2 - nausea or loose stool 3 - vomiting or diarrhea 5 - multiple episodes of diarrhea or vomiting	
<b>Sweating</b> <i>Over past 30 minutes not accounted for by room temperature or patient activity</i> 0 - no report of chills or flushing 1 - subjective report of chills or flushing 2 - flushed or observable moistness on face 3 - beads of sweat on brow or face 4 - sweat streaming off face	<b>Tremor</b> <i>Observation of outstretched hands</i> 0 - no tremor 1 - tremor can be felt, but not observed 2 - slight tremor observable 4 - gross tremor or muscle twitching	
<b>Restlessness</b> <i>Observation during assessment</i> 0 - able to sit still 1 - reports difficulty sitting still, but is able to do so 3 - frequent shifting or extraneous movements of legs/arms 5 - unable to sit still for more than a few seconds	<b>Yawning</b> <i>Observation during assessment</i> 0 - no yawning 1 - yawning once or twice during assessment 2 - yawning three or more times during assessment 4 - yawning several times per minute	
<b>Pupil Size</b> 0 - pupils pinned or normal size for room light 1 - pupils possible larger than normal for room light 2 - pupils moderately dilated 5 - pupils so dilated that only the rim of the iris is visible	<b>Anxiety or Irritability</b> 0 - none 1 - patient reports increasing irritability or anxiousness 2 - patient obviously irritable or anxious 4 - patient so irritable or anxious that participation in the assessment is difficult	
<b>Bone or Joint Aches</b> <i>If patient was having pain previously, only the additional component attributed to opiates withdrawal is scored</i> 0 - not present 1 - mild diffuse discomfort 2 - patient reports severe diffuse aching of joints/muscles 4 - patient is rubbing joints or muscles and is unable to sit still because of discomfort	<b>Gooseflesh Skin</b> 0 - skin is smooth 3 - piloerection of skin can be felt or hairs standing up on arms 5 - prominent piloerection	
<b>Runny Nose or Tearing</b> <i>Not accounted for by cold symptoms or allergies</i> 0 - not present 1 - nasal stuffiness or unusually moist eyes 2 - nose running or tearing 4 - nose constantly running or tears streaming down cheeks		
<small>Source: Wesson, D. R., and Ling, W. (2003). The Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS). J Psychoactive Drugs, 35(2), 253-9.            Original/Trial 2018/03 Page 2 of 2 Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS)            Scan to IP Assessment Nursing</small>		

# Thank You

- Thank you for having us!
- Special “Thank You” to Leanne Wakelin for all her dedication and support.
- Special “Thank You” to Barb Patterson for her patience and support.

## Conclusions

- Addiction is a **chronic brain disease**
- Addiction is common in hospitalized patients
- Hospital staff are well-placed to identify, diagnose, and treat addiction
- Agonist therapy with methadone or buprenorphine is proven, effective treatment (but NOT a cure!!)
- Please support our team in creating the first Addictions Medicine Consult Team
- Support our consults with COWS forms

## Community Resources:

- Addiction and Mental Health Services:  
Crisis line: 613 544-4229; Toll free: 866 616-6005  
[amhs-kfla.ca](http://amhs-kfla.ca)
- Alcoholics Anonymous: [kingstonaa.org](http://kingstonaa.org)
- Narcotics Anonymous: [limestonena.com](http://limestonena.com)