Collaborative care in the addiction management of alcohol, illicit drugs and hypnotics and tranquilizers in the Belgian working population

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Background

General practitioners (GPs) and occupational physicians (OPs) play an important role in detecting and managing substance abuse in the working population but their collaboration is critical in coordinating care, facilitate a quicker rehabilitation and shorten sick leave.

Research Question

Do guidelines exist for collaboration between GPs and OPs in substance abuse management?

"Guidelines on collaboration between general practitioners and occupational physicians for substance abuse management are lacking."

Results

- No guidelines for collaboration between GPs and OPs exist
- If alcohol abuse is detected by the OP → referral to experienced clinicians in alcohol abuse management is recommended
- No isolated management strategy for OPs is suggested because of limited adequate evidence on the role of the OP in substance abuse management

Conclusion

In order to ensure adequate substance abuse management, collaborative models for general practice and occupational health should be developed. We recommend to study pros and cons for collaboration as well as the best way to achieve it if recommended.

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Systematic review of guidelines

ADAPTE framework

Guideline search in databases GIN & NGC (n=4712)
Records after duplicates removed (n = 1578)
Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n=147)
Appraisal of quality with AGREE II (n=35)
Included guidelines (n=20) Collaboration GP & OP (n=2)

Additional search for guidelines in other databases (n=387)
Screen on title and abstract by 2 independent reviewers
Exclusion criteria: Language; no adults, no guideline; not evidence-based; no diagnosis, treatment or collaboration; not for GP and OP; no illicit drugs, alcohol, hypnotics and tranquilizers