



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.

This study is part of the interuniversity project UP TO DATE. It aims at providing an accurate view on the management of addiction in Belgium, from the physicians' perspective, both in the French- and Dutch-speaking regions.

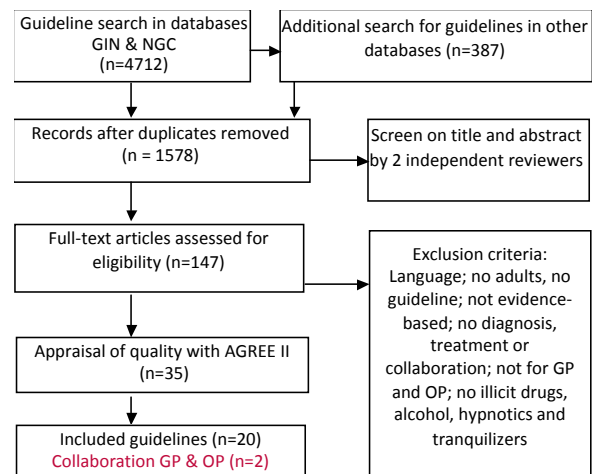
Research Question

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.”

Systematic review of guidelines ADAPTE framework



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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