The Role of Nursing in Addiction Medicine

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Presentation for the DANA Conference, Darling Harbour, Sydney, August 2017
Nursing and Addiction Medicine

- General hospitals
- Psychiatric units
- Specialist addictions units
- Community health services
- General practice
- Outreach services
- As therapists
- As nurse practitioners
- In consultation-liaison services - a pivotal role
Role of consultation-liaison services:

- to provide advice on the clinical management of patients or other persons who are known or considered possibly to have an alcohol, tobacco, medication or illicit drug problem, with the goal of optimising their treatment; and

- to increase the knowledge, skills, familiarity and professional practice standards of staff in hospital wards and other facilities where persons with the substance disorders are present.
Nursing and Addiction Medicine

1. Assessment of the risk of withdrawal syndrome
2. Monitoring and management of detoxification from alcohol, tobacco, prescribed medication or illicit drugs
3. Assessment of substance use where the history has been difficult to elicit or is inconsistent, to identify the aetiological significance of substance use for the presenting disease
4. Assessment, monitoring and management of patients with acute or chronic pain and who have known or suspected substance (particularly opioid) dependence
Nursing and Addiction Medicine

5. Management of drug seeking behaviour particularly in a hospital setting

6. Linking patients to continuing therapy for their substance use disorder following discharge from hospital

7. Discharge planning from a substance use disorder perspective
Bill Goodin

Assistant Director of Nursing, Drug and Alcohol Services, at RPA Hospital in the early-mid 1980s.

1. Developed the Alcohol Withdrawal Scale (AWS), which was derived from lengthier withdrawal instruments (TSA and SSA).

2. Undertook controlled trial of AWS monitoring and demonstrated better recognition and management of withdrawal in wards where it was introduced compared with other wards.

3. Subsequently took up an academic position at Sydney University.
Chris Shanley

Assistant Director of Nursing, Drug and Alcohol Services, at RPA Hospital in the mid 1980s.

1. Undertook validation study of AWS.
2. Developed in-service training program at RPAH.
Helena Novak

Assistant Director of Nursing, Drug and Alcohol Services, at RPA Hospital for many years from late 1980s to 1990s.

1. Established D & A nursing as a profession.
2. Led the statewide Nursing Education Project in D & A.
3. Initiated training programs in D & A nursing at the NSW College of Nursing and paved the way for the development of university degrees in nursing.
4. Expert clinician and mentor over many years.
Addiction Medicine
Second Edition

Edited by Saunders, Conigrave, Latt, Nutt, Marshall, Ling, and Higuchi

Edited by a global team of addiction specialists from multiple disciplines

Covers specific types of psychoactive substance and treatment options

Describes the needs and relevant treatments for particular age and socio-economic groups together with the more complex clinical situations such as pain and dependence and psychiatric comorbidity

Features a series of appendices which provide summaries of concepts and practical tools to aid management

ISBN: 9780198714750