

Substance Use
Guidance on Good Clinical Practice
for Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors



**Working within
Primary Health Care Teams**

Association of
Nurses in
Substance Abuse

ANSA

The Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse was formed in 1983 for nurses and allied professionals working directly and indirectly with individuals, families and communities affected by drug and alcohol use.

It is a membership organisation with an elected National Executive Committee. Activities include:

- a three-day annual national conference
- one- and two-day local conferences and training events
- quarterly branch meetings
- publication of a conference journal and three bulletins per annum
- publication of clinical guidance booklets on substance misuse within different branches of nursing
- membership of the Joint Committee of Professional Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting Associations (England)
- representation of members at appropriate national policy forums
- support and advice on nursing and substance use related issues to: ANSA members; Drug Action Teams (DATs); service purchasers and providers (Stat/Non Stat); government agencies and other relevant national bodies.

Further information on membership details can be obtained from:

ANSA, Professional Briefings
120 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1JZ.

Tel: 020 7233 8322; Fax: 020 7233 7779

SUBSTANCE USE:

Guidance on good Clinical Practice

for

Nurses, Midwives and

Health Visitors

working with

Primary Health Care Teams

Series Editor:
Carmel Clancy

Lead Authors:
Jan Miller

Published by

ANSA
(THE ASSOCIATION OF
NURSES IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE)
120 Wilton Road,
London SW1V 1JX

1997

Copyright © 1997 ANSA

(Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse)

All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced by any means, or transmitted, or translated into a machine language without the written permission of the publisher

Printed and Distributed by
Pinpoint Communication Ltd
12 Skerne Road, Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT2 5AF

ISBN 1 901738 01 7

FOREWORD

As part of the Government Strategy, Tackling Drugs Together, the Department of Health undertook to discuss with relevant medical and nursing professional and statutory bodies, the scope for providing appropriate training and education on drug misuse issues. The subsequent report of the Task Force set up under the chairmanship of the Reverend Dr John Polkinghorne, looked, among other things, at services for young people and the role of the primary health care team.

This booklet, one of three to be produced by the Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse, has taken discussion forward into action and I am very pleased that the Department was able to find the funding to facilitate the work.

I know what hard work it has been to draw together the material for this guidance on good practice, the consultations with colleagues, the writing and editing, and I congratulate the organisation for producing three extremely useful publications. I know they will prove to be an invaluable aid to nurses, midwives and health visitors as they work with patients and clients who misuse substances, whether drugs, alcohol or cigarettes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Moores'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Y'.

Yvonne Moores

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER/
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

This booklet is part of a series of booklets for nurses, midwives and health visitors produced by ANSA (Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse).

Series Editor: Carmel Clancy, BSc (Hons), RGN, RMN

Lead Authors: Working within Primary Health Care Teams

**Jan Miller, BSc (Hons), RGN, RMN,
Dip.Psy Counselling**

Lead Authors: Working with Children and Young People

**Andy McEwen, BA (Hons), RMN
and
Carmel Clancy, BSc (Hons), RGN, RMN**

Lead Author: Working with Drug and Alcohol Users

**Patrick Coyne, BSc (Hons), RMN
and
Seonaid Wright, RGN, RMN,
Dip. Drug Alcohol Studies**

Preface

As we approach the new millennium the fact that nurses will increasingly find themselves providing care for people with substance related problems is inevitable. The phenomenon of substance misuse is complex and does not offer immediate or easy solutions. The costs of addiction, physical, emotional, legal, and economic not only affect the individual user but can render local communities, countries and indeed continents vulnerable.

Effective collaboration, at both macro and micro levels, from countries complying with international treaties on drug controls and supply, to the development of interdisciplinary and interagency partnerships among health and social agencies at a local district level, is one aspect of the needed response which is acknowledged to be crucial.

The nursing profession, as one element of a response framework, has a key role in preventing, reducing and eliminating the harm caused by substance misuse. As the single largest group offering health care within the United Kingdom, there are enormous opportunities open to the profession to significantly halt the progression of addiction.

I hope that this publication, as part of a series of booklets on substance misuse and specific branches of nursing, will facilitate colleagues in their pursuit of these opportunities. I trust that any failure of belief which might exist that nurses have a role in tackling substance related issues within their clinical practice will be dispelled, and that lack of knowledge and competencies to offer effective interventions will be bridged.

This booklet is a testimony to what can be achieved through collaboration, reflected in the different branches of nursing and professionals from other disciplines represented on the National Steering Group. In addition, many colleagues, through their constructive comments, contributed to the wider consultation.

It is a privilege for ANSA to have the support of the Nursing Group within the Department of Health, who funded this project. We heartily acknowledge the commitment of the Nursing Group to the area of substance misuse and trust that this initiative will result in the promotion and consolidation of good clinical practice in the challenging years which lie ahead.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Professor Hamid Ghodse (St George's Hospital Medical School) for his encouragement and to all those who have been directly and indirectly involved in this project for their support, in particular, to ANSA's National Executive officers and members whose work within the field of substance misuse has been the source of inspiration for this booklet.

Carmel Clancy

Chairperson, ANSA
March 1997

This booklet is part of a series of booklets for nurses, midwives and health visitors produced by ANSA (Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse).

Series Editor: Carmel Clancy, BSc (Hons), RGN, RMN

Lead Authors: Working within Primary Health Care Teams

**Jan Miller, BSc (Hons), RGN, RMN,
Dip.Psy Counselling**

Lead Authors: Working with Children and Young People

**Andy McEwen, BA (Hons), RMN
and
Carmel Clancy, BSc (Hons), RGN, RMN**

Lead Author: Working with Drug and Alcohol Users

**Patrick Coyne, BSc (Hons), RMN
and
Seonaid Wright, RGN, RMN,
Dip. Drug Alcohol Studies**

