Addiction Care in Correctional Settings

Category: Workshop

Abstract Body

Substance use disorders are highly prevalent in the incarcerated population, and Canadian prisons are seeing escalating numbers of overdose events and complicated withdrawal syndromes, resulting in frequent hospital transfers, significant morbidity or death.

Physicians and care providers working in correctional settings face increased challenges to provide safe withdrawal management, OAT initiation and treatment, and the psychosocial interventions to address the worsening crisis.

This workshop will explore these challenging scenarios using case vignettes to increase provider skill levels and confidence to support addiction care of patients prior to, during and following release from prison.

Key Words

- Pharmacologic Interventions
- Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Stigma
- Treatment Models/Programs
- Withdrawal Management

Learning Objective # 1

Review, compare and identify challenges in delivering the current range of opioid agonist therapies.

Learning Objective # 2

Develop skills to confidently manage complicated withdrawal syndromes in carceral settings.

Reference # 1

The effect of entry and retention in opioid agonist treatment on contact with the criminal justice system among opioid-dependent people: a retrospective cohort study. Gisev 2019

Reference # 2

Prevalence of Mental Health Needs, Substance Use, and Co-occurring Disorders Among People Admitted to Prison Amanda Butler, Ph.D., Tonia Nicholls, Ph.D., Hasina Samji, Ph.D., Sheri Fabian, Ph.D., M. Ruth Lavergne, Ph.D.

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