

Who We Serve: Understanding the Demographic and Clinical Profile of Addiction Medicine Consultation Service at London Health Sciences Centre

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

The development of a hospital-based Addiction Medicine Consultation Service (AMCS) was intended to serve individuals with high substance use-related emergency room visits. AMCS aims to improve access to harm reduction and evidence-based addiction medicine in the acute care setting and to support the transition to outpatient addiction support for individuals expressing a desire to pursue treatment. In January 2023, funding to implement an AMCS at London Health Science Centre (LHSC) was provided by Ontario Health as part of the Roadmap to wellness: a plan to build Ontario's mental health and addictions system.

The LHSC-AMCS is a multidisciplinary team consisting of physicians, a nurse practitioner, an addiction medicine navigator, and a peer harm reduction specialist. As part of the implementation framework of this project, LHSC-AMCS is in the process of identifying who we serve to inform the development of program best practices. Data will be collected using chart review and will include demographic information (e.g. age, sex, identified gender, indigenous status, housing); medical information (e.g., the reason for admission, length of stay, type/ patterns of substance use, treatment programs, and discharge destination) and referral information (referral source, volume of referrals, number and outcome of outpatient referrals to community partners). This first phase of our implementation framework will allow us to assess our reach within the broader hospital system and lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive program evaluation of who we serve.

Key Words

- Opioids/Opiates
- Quality Improvement
- Stimulants
- Substance Use Disorder (general)
- Treatment Models/Programs
- Withdrawal Management

Learning Objective # 1

Understand where inpatient addiction consult services are most needed

Learning Objective # 2

Understand more about the current drug supply based on reported substances used prior to hospital admission and reason for admission

Reference # 1

Singh-Tan, S., Torres-Lockhart, K., Jakubowski, A. et al. Addiction Consult Service and Inpatient Outcomes Among Patients with Alcohol Use Disorder. J GEN INTERN MED (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-023-08202-7>

Reference # 2

Braithwaite V, Ti L, Fairbairn N, Ahamad K, McLean M, Harrison S, Wood E, Nolan S. Building a hospital-based addiction medicine consultation service in Vancouver, Canada: the path taken and lessons learned. *Addiction*. 2021 Jul;116(7):1892-1900. doi: 10.1111/add.15383. Epub 2021 Jan 27. PMID: 33339073; PMCID: PMC8862688.

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