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- Providing Information About the Neurobiology of Alcohol Use Disorders to Close the 'Referral to Treatment Gap'** 373
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- Only a small proportion of the 18 million Americans who could benefit from alcohol treatment actually receive it. Disseminating information on the neurobiological base of alcohol disorders may be useful in removing the prevailing barriers to accepting a referral to alcohol treatment. Nurses, guided by a set of clinical strategies known as screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment, can be instrumental in closing this treatment gap.
- Understanding Alcoholism** 385
Albert Rundio Jr
- Ethanol is an ingredient that is intoxicating in nature. Abuse of alcohol affects nearly every bodily system. Alcohol is rapidly absorbed from the stomach, small intestine, and colon. This article provides an introduction to the health effects of alcoholism. Discussed are ethyl alcohol and methyl alcohol.
- Implementing an Evidence-Based Detoxification Protocol for Alcoholism in a Residential Addictions Treatment Facility** 391
Albert Rundio Jr
- Chemical dependency, commonly known as substance abuse and use disorders, continues to plague residents of the United States. Because treatment has expanded beyond the walls of the acute care hospital, advanced practice nurses play a pivotal role in caring for clients addicted to various substances. This article describes how an advanced practice nurse in collaboration with the medical director and a director of nursing at a residential treatment center in southern New Jersey oversaw the development of an evidence-based detoxification treatment protocol for alcohol dependency, emphasizing the critical role of nurses in assuring that clinical practice is rooted in current evidence.
- Underage Drinking: An Evolutionary Concept Analysis** 401
Sandra N. Jones and Roberta L. Waite
- Underage drinking is a major cause of morbidity and mortality for American youths and young adults. The negative consequences of underage drinking range from academic problems to intentional and unintentional injuries, acts directed toward self or others, and death. Nurses, regardless of practice settings, are on the frontline of defense. The take-home message is to delay/deter the first drink of alcohol.

- Substance Use Disorders and Evidence-Based Detoxification Protocols** 415
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- The role of advanced practice nursing in addictions is inclusive of the medical detoxification of patients. Addiction fits a biopsychosocial/spiritual disease model. One of the primary goals of treatment is to address the components of this model. Various pharmacologic agents have been used for the management of withdrawal.
- Maintaining Sobriety and Recovery** 437
William J. Lorman
- Recovery is a continuous, progressive process of improvement whereby a person with a substance use disorder first becomes sober and then begins a lifelong commitment to improve his or her health, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach full potential. The nurse plays an important role in the beginning stages of this process by helping the patient identify relapse risk factors along with providing psychoeducational, psychotherapeutic, and psychopharmacologic interventions to decrease the risk of relapse and direct the patient down a path of self-efficacy, personal health, and productive citizenship.
- Use of Photovoice in Addiction** 445
Gretchen Hope Miller Heery
- The addiction to narcotic substances is an increasing public health problem. Addiction relapse is preventable. Photovoice may increase the success rate by offering a deeper perspective, insight, dimension of feeling, and perception connecting with those who feel disconnected. This process uses cameras, discussion groups, storyboards, and interaction to thread through difficult discussion points created by the participant. Understanding the process of recovery from opioid substance abuse creates an opportunity to maintain socially acceptable behaviors and decreases the risk of participating in illegal activities and making poor choices. Photovoice allows for creative expression of thought by bypassing cognitive defenses.
- Peer Assistance for Nurses with Substance-Use Disorders** 459
Albert Rundio Jr
- Addictions can be prevalent in the health professions, as these individuals are intelligent and know how drugs function. Health professionals generally also have easy access to medications and controlled substances. Many systems have been implemented in attempts to prevent nurses and other providers from abusing drugs; for example, computerized automated delivery systems of medication. Nevertheless, substance-use disorders are still prevalent in the health professions, and one cannot exclude these professionals from any discussion on substance use. This article discusses the implementation of peer-assistance programs that help nurses who abuse substances to receive treatment and maintain their licensure.

Monitoring Nurses with Substance-Use Disorders in New Jersey

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Jamie Smith

As many as 6% to 8% of nurses are estimated to abuse alcohol or other substances. Monitoring and peer-assistance programs have been created to increase the understanding of abuse, to support nurses during their recovery and safe return to practice, and to protect public safety. In New Jersey, 2 such programs now exist: the Recovery and Monitoring Program (RAMP) and the Peer Assistance Program.

Health Promotion and Prevention Strategies

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Kathleen Bradbury-Golas

Opiate dependency is a medical disorder that requires treatment intervention. Primary health care not only entails treatment of illness but also involves disease prevention and health promotion. Based on Pender's revised Health Promotion Model, a descriptive study comparing the health promoting behaviors/practices in abusing and recovering opiate-dependent drug users is analyzed. Using the Health Promoting Lifestyle Profile II, a comparative descriptive, exploratory, nonexperimental design study was conducted to identify key health-promoting behaviors in recovering opiate-dependent drug users. Prevention strategy recommendations are discussed, along with future research recommendations.

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment: A Need for Educational Reform in Nursing

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Dana Murphy-Parker

With the prevalence of addiction-related health consequences, all nurses must maintain a basic level of knowledge and skills regarding addictions. Nurses are ideally positioned to screen, assess, refer; and, at the advanced practice level, treat clients for addiction disorders, provided the knowledge and willingness exists to intervene. A vision for nursing education is to achieve minimal competencies for all generalist nurses, facilitated by incorporation of substance-related disorder concepts into nursing education. An urgent need exists to disseminate the most recent knowledge and skills in nursing school curricula throughout the United States and internationally.