



ICGP Certificate in Substance
Misuse & Associated
Health Problems



Certificate in Substance Misuse & Associated Health Problems

Introduction

This course provides in-depth information on recent developments in diagnosis and management of substance misuse including alcohol, prescription drugs (benzodiazepines and opiate analgesics) and illicit substances. Many of the skills acquired on this course (including communication and counselling skills) are applicable across a range of medical problems which may present in a range of clinical settings. Substance misuse related issues are common, presenting in up to 15% of primary care consultations, up to 40% of emergency department consultations and up to 80% of prison admissions. This course will therefore be of interest to GPs, doctors working in emergency departments, in the prison service or in infectious disease departments or other disciplines who wish to improve their knowledge and skills in all areas of substance misuse.

The course is delivered in an e-learning environment through a combination of online modules, interactive workshops and practice-based work, reflecting the major, current and debatable health issues. It is designed and delivered by experienced and practising healthcare professionals, including GPs and consultant psychiatrists and physicians, who have extensive experience in the area of substance misuse. The e-learning modules each contain a number of topics presented by the course teachers with relevant supplementary materials. The workshops are designed to stimulate and promote debate and interaction through a variety of methods that reflect learning styles. Participants will be supported in undertaking a Practice Improvement Project (PIP) as a component of this course, with a strong focus on improving the quality of a related aspect of care in their own practice setting.

The certificate is awarded following full attendance and participation at workshops and the successful completion of all assignments. It is a compulsory component of training for those who wish to become a level 2 prescriber under the Methadone Treatment Protocol.

Course Aim

The aim of this course is to provide course participants with the theoretical framework to assess, manage and refer appropriately patients who misuse substances.

Course Objectives

The course objectives include:

- ✚ Providing a clear understanding of the common assessment tools used in substance misuse
- ✚ Having in-depth knowledge of evidence based interventions
- ✚ Gaining clear knowledge of the common referral and rehabilitation pathways
- ✚ Having a non-judgemental attitude to the management of substance misusers

Course Content

The course is divided into 2 learning areas:

- ✚ Workshops
- ✚ eLearning modules

The workshops address the following issues:

- ✚ Irish and international policy on illicit drugs & alcohol
- ✚ Consultation and communications skills
- ✚ Patient experience
- ✚ Risk factors in drug and alcohol misuse
- ✚ Planning and implementing a practice improvement project




The following modules are delivered through eLearning:

- ✚ Initial assessment and management of patients with substance misuse problems
- ✚ Pharmacological agents used in the management of substance misuse problems
- ✚ Health impacts: Psychiatric co-morbidities and consequences
- ✚ Health impacts: Physical co-morbidities and consequences
- ✚ Health impacts: Prevention and management of infections
- ✚ Medico-legal considerations
- ✚ Self-care and practice management issues

Assessment Guide

Assessment methods have been designed to promote the application of knowledge and to encourage reflective learning. There is a strong focus on the practical application of learning through the practice improvement project.

There are three components to assessment in this course:

 Practice Impact Project (portfolio)	60%
 Multiple Choice Questions	30%
 Workshops	10%

Please note: it is necessary to pass **each** component in order to satisfactorily complete this course.

Practice Impact Project

This project will be completed during the course.

Each course participant should choose a project that will have an impact on their clinical practice. Participants should ensure that their project is approved by the Course Principal before commencing project work. Initial planning of course project will be supported at Workshop 1. Progress and ongoing support of course project will be offered throughout the course by the Course Tutor. The course must be completed **before Workshop 2**. Pass mark is 60%.

Course participants are also expected to identify and keep a record of key learning points throughout the course and then to complete the reflective portfolio.

Multiple Choice Questions

Multiple choice questions must be completed for each module. Pass mark is 80%. Completed MCQs for each module must be submitted before you can access the next module. Modules must be completed **before Workshop 2**.

Workshops

There are two interactive workshops. Attendance at each is **compulsory**. Participation in the workshops attracts full marks.

Competencies

The following outlines the competencies that doctors will attain in completing the Certificate in Substance Misuse & Associated Health Problems. It describes consolidation of competencies that have already been attained during the Foundation Course and practice at Level 1 (where applicable), and development of additional skills and competencies which will qualify the candidate for a Level 2 contract (if applicable). The evidence base for this is drawn from the RCPsych /RCGP guide for commissioners, providers and clinicians.

Domain: Supporting People to Recover

<i>Sub-Domain</i>	<i>Consolidate</i>	<i>Develop</i>
Advice and information	Advise and inform patients with a drug or alcohol problem their families and carers on associated harms and risks	Advise people using drugs about medical interventions, treatments and harm reduction. Advise patients and their families about available services.
	Work to reduce stigma faced by people who have a substance misuse problem	
Identification and diagnosis	Identify people with a drug or alcohol problems and diagnose substance use disorders	
Assessment and recovery planning	Carry out basic assessment of a patients with a drug or alcohol problem and assess the need for referral to more specialist services	Carry out comprehensive assessment of problem alcohol or drug use and need for referral to more specialist services
	Carry out risk assessment of suicide and harm to others, psychiatric comorbidity and need for further referral	Devise and initiate recovery plan for people with less severe or complex needs (in collaboration with other professionals as appropriate)
Providing support, care and medical treatment	Support people using or recovering from a drug or alcohol problem in caring for their general mental and physical health and well-being	
	Liaise with relevant professionals in care of people using or recovering from a drug or alcohol problem	

Domain: Clinical Leadership

<i>Sub-Domain</i>	<i>Consolidate</i>	<i>Develop</i>
Clinical governance and innovation	Be aware of guidelines and research relevant to clinical role	
	Participate in relevant clinical audit	
Service development	Support service provision and development locally	Facilitate service user involvement and provide advocacy for service users

In attaining these competencies, those completing Certificate Course in Substance Misuse (and Associated Health Problems) will address all eight domains of professionalism, as described by the Medical Council, namely:

- ✚ Patient Safety and Quality of Care
- ✚ Relating to Patients; Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- ✚ Collaboration and Teamwork
- ✚ Management (including Self-Management)
- ✚ Scholarship
- ✚ Professionalism
- ✚ Clinical Skills

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have completed the [Foundation \(Level 1\) Course in Substance Misuse](#) in order to be eligible for this Certificate course.

Any general practitioner or registered medical practitioner with an interest in substance misuse may apply. Registrars in general practice, psychiatry or other relevant disciplines are eligible to apply. It is desirable that the candidate is working with substance misuse or planning to do so. If the course is oversubscribed, priority will be given to ICGP members.

Course Fee

- ✚ **Course Fee:** €650*
- ✚ **Discounted Fee for Members:** €500*

Please note: Current Level 2 GPs may apply for reimbursement on successful completion of the course. Reimbursement may also apply for candidates who proceed to apply for a HSE Level 2 contract within 1 year of completion of the course.

Applications for reimbursement must be emailed to substancemisuse@icgp.ie for consideration within a 1 year period of completing the Certificate in Substance Misuse and Health Related Problems Course.

CPD Points

A maximum of 40 CPD credits will be awarded for this course.

Help and Support

- ✚ IT and Admin Support: substancemisuse@icgp.ie
- ✚ Clinical and Project Support: marieclaire.vanhout@icgp.ie