


HOW TO ASSESS NON-MEDICAL USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS?

- NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM
-  Lack of epidemiological data.
- ASSESSMENT /SCREENING TOOLS & URINE TESTING.
- PHYSICIAN EDUCATION
- TIME ALLOCATION AND INCENTIVE FOR ASSESSMENT
- ADDRESSING CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS.
- ASSESSING TREATMENT OUTCOMES
- NEED FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.

MOST APPROPRIATE PREVENTIVE RESPONSE TO NON-MEDICAL USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

- The most successful prevention strategy is **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION** between the healthcare provider and the patient.

CLINICAL GUIDANCE?

- NOT YET.
- THE NEED TO DEVELOP A MULTI LEVEL(3 levels) GUIDELINE BASED NOT ONLY ON BEST PRACTICES BUT ALSO ON THE ACTUAL CONTEXT/SETTINGS.

RECOMMENDATIONS (I)

- Treatment programs should make medical assessment a standard part of treatment for prescription drug abusers
- Treatment programs should address co-occurring disorders and, where appropriate, combine evidence-based behavioural therapy with available pharmacological interventions
- Research has to be undertaken to look into the possibility of identifying medication to block cravings for specific drugs other than opioids.
- The need for medical and social research in the treatment of substance abuse as well as rehabilitation, has become more urgent, particularly with the world-wide increase in abuse and addiction among young people (Youth and the United Nations, 2009).

RECOMMENDATIONS (II)

- Improved screening tools and better education of physicians concerning the issue of nonmedical use of prescription drugs in general are needed - {Many tools used to screen for substance abuse do not include items on nonmedical use of prescription drug use (Savage, 2009) }
- Studies which utilize e-health tools such as computers and portable digital and wireless devices are also needed to improve access to treatment for prescription drug abuse and/or augment provision of treatment by health care providers.

RECOMMENDATIONS (III)

- Research is needed to determine the factors that may affect access to treatment for prescription drug abuse and addiction
- There is a need to develop and evaluate innovative science based education approaches for health professionals (NIDA, 2008).

THE CHALLENGE ???

- How to adapt treatment to the needs of those who engage in nonmedical use of prescription drugs only, those who are poly-substance users, or those with a co morbid illness (especially mental illness)

THANK YOU