

Core Content of Addiction Medicine: Version 1

Core Content represents the areas of knowledge of a specialist in addiction medicine.

**Core Content, Version 1 was approved by the
Directors of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) Foundation
September 9, 2009.**

The Directors of The ABAM Foundation invite comment on the Core Content.

Please send comments to Mr. Christopher Weirs at: email@abam.net

Copyright © 2009
The ABAM Foundation, Inc.

**Adapted from:
ASAM Content of Addiction Medicine (9/13/06), and
Principles of Addiction Medicine, Fourth Edition (2009)**

DEFINITIONS AND BASIC SCIENCE

1.0 Definitions

- 1.1 Addiction**
- 1.2 Addiction Medicine**
- 1.3 Unhealthy use**
- 1.4 Dependence**
- 1.5 Withdrawal**
- 1.6 Detoxification**
- 1.7 Substance Related Disorders**

- 1.8 *ICD10* Diagnostic Categories**

2.0 Basic Science

- 2.1 Genetics**
 - 2.1.1 Heritability of risk for addiction**
 - 2.1.2 Epigenetic phenomena related to addiction**
 - 2.1.3. Genetic predictors of treatment response**
- 2.2 Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Principles**
 - 2.2.1 Drug Metabolism and Principles of Drug Interactions (including the impact of addictive drug use on the metabolism of common therapeutic medications)**
 - 2.2.2 Reinforcement**
 - 2.2.3 Tolerance**
 - 2.2.4 Cross-tolerance.**
 - 2.2.5 Physical dependence**
 - 2.2.6 Conditioning**
 - 2.2.7 Relapse**
 - 2.2.8 Stress, sensitization, immunotherapy and different technologies of use (oral, sublingual, intravenous, inhalation, intramuscular, etc.)**
- 2.1 Pharmacology**
 - 2.1.1 Opioids (opium, heroin, prescription opioids)**
 - 2.1.2 Benzodiazepines, benzodiazepine receptor agonists, barbiturates and other sedative-hypnotics**
 - 2.1.3 Alcohol**
 - 2.1.4 Cocaine, amphetamine and other stimulants.**
 - 2.1.5 Nicotine and tobacco.**
 - 2.1.6 Cannabinoids**
 - 2.1.7 Hallucinogens (LSD, mescaline, psilocybin, and other hallucinogens.).**
 - 2.1.8 Dissociatives (phencyclidine, ketamine, dextromethorphan and other dissociatives).**
 - 2.1.9 Inhalants (nitrous oxide, hydrocarbons, and other inhalants)**
 - 2.1.10 Anabolic Steroids**
 - 2.3.11 Club Drugs (MDMA, GHB, and other club drugs)**
- 2.2 Neurobiology of Addiction**
 - 2.4.1 Animal models of addiction**

2.4.2 Neuropharmacology

2.4.2.1 Acetylcholine

2.4.2.2 Norepinephrine

2.4.2.3 Dopamine

2.4.2.4 Serotonin

2.4.2.5 GABA

2.4.2.6 Endogenous Opioids

2.4.2.7 Amino acids and peptides

2.4.2.8 Endocannabinoids

2.4.2.9 Glutamate and NMDA receptors

2.4.3 Cellular and molecular mechanism in addiction (including neuroadaptation, epigenetic phenomena, etc.)

2.4.4 Neuroimaging of addiction and related phenomena (craving, relapse, recovery, etc.)

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION

3.0 Epidemiology

3.1 Incidence, Prevalence and Initiation

3.2 Special Populations

3.3.1 Injury/Trauma

3.3.2 The Elderly

3.3.3 Women

3.3.4 Pregnant Women and Newborns

3.3.5 Adolescents and Young Adults

3.3.6 Families with Alcohol and Other Drug Using Members (including children at risk)

3.3 Alcohol and Drug Use in the Workplace

3.3.1 General Trends

3.3.2 Adverse Effects

3.3.2.1 Absenteeism

3.3.2.2 Injury: Occupational and Non-occupational

3.3.2.3 Implications for Health Care Utilization

3.3.3 Employee Assistance and Prevention Programs

3.3.4 Workplace Drug Testing

3.3.5 Medical Review Officer (MRO) Responsibilities and Authority, including fitness for duty evaluations (Goldsmith)

3.3.5.1 Operational Definitions of Use/Dependence in the Workplace.

3.3.6 Substance Use Disorders in Health Professionals

4.0 Prevention

4.1 Primary Prevention

4.2 Secondary Prevention

4.3 Tertiary prevention

CLINICAL CONCEPTS

- 5.0 Screening, Assessment and Brief Intervention**
 - 5.1 Screening**
 - 5.1.1 Laboratory Tests**
 - 5.1.1.1 Clinical Drug Testing**
 - 5.1.2. Standard Questionnaires**
 - 5.1.2.1 Adults**
 - 5.1.2.2 Adolescents**
 - 5.1.2.3 Pregnant Women**
 - 5.2 Assessment**
 - 5.3 Brief Intervention**
 - 5.3.1 Ambulatory Care Settings**
 - 4.3.1.1. Pregnant Outpatients**
 - 4.3.1.2. Adolescent Outpatients**
 - 5.3.2 Emergency Departments**
 - 5.3.2 Hospital Inpatient Setting**
- 6.0 Overview of Addiction Treatment**
 - 6.1 History of Addiction Medicine**
 - 6.2 Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorders**
 - 6.3 Treatment of Drug Use Disorders**
 - 6.4 Linking Addiction Treatment with Other Medical and Psychiatric Treatment**
 - 6.5 Alternative Therapies for Alcohol and Drug Addiction**
 - 6.6 Other Addictions: Gambling, sex, food**
 - 6.7 Treatment Needs of Children and Adolescents**
- 7.0 Management of Inpatient and Outpatient Intoxication and Withdrawal**
 - 7.1 General Principles in Management of Intoxication and Withdrawal**
 - 7.2 Management of Alcohol Intoxication and Withdrawal**
 - 7.3 Management of Sedative-hypnotic Intoxication**
 - 7.4 Management of Opioid Intoxication and Withdrawal**
 - 7.5 Management of Other Drugs (e.g. stimulants, nicotine, phencyclidine, cannabanoids, hallucinogens, dissociatives, and inhalants)**
 - 7.6 Pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic intervention for Neonatal Intoxication and withdrawal for opioids and sedatives.**
 - 7.7 Management of adverse impact of alcohol on fetus and long term consequences**
 - 7.8 Management of Alcohol/Drug Withdrawal Among Those Hospitalized for an Acute Co-morbid Condition.**
- 8.0 Pharmacologic Interventions for Relapse Prevention**
 - 8.1 Pharmacological Interventions for Opioid Dependence**
 - 8.2 Pharmacological Interventions for Sedative-Hypnotic Dependence**
 - 8.3 Pharmacological Interventions for Alcohol Dependence**
 - 8.4 Pharmacological Interventions for Tobacco Dependence**
 - 8.5 Pharmacologic Interventions for Other Drug Dependence**

- 8.6 Pharmacologic and Non-pharmacologic Interventions for Neonatal Intoxication and Withdrawal for Opioids and Sedatives**
- 8.7 Pharmacological Interventions for Non Substance Related Addictions**
- 9.0 Behavioral Interventions**
 - 9.1 Psychological aspects of alcohol and drug use (including “set and setting,” placebo and expectation)**
 - 9.2 Motivating Patients to Change**
 - 9.3 Individual Psychotherapy**
 - 9.4 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**
 - 9.4.1 Relapse Prevention**
 - 9.4.2 Community Reinforcement and Vouchers**
 - 9.4.3 Matrix Model**
 - 9.5 Group Therapy**
 - 9.6 Self Help Groups**
 - 9.4.1 Twelve Step Programs and 12-Step Facilitation Therapies**
 - 9.4.2 Other Self Help Programs**
 - 9.7 Couples and Family Counseling, Therapies, and Interventions**
 - 9.8 Adolescent Relapse Prevention**
 - 9.9 Residential Treatment**
 - 9.10 Contingency Management**
 - 9.11 Research to Practice**
 - 9.12 Principles of Integrating Behavioral and Pharmacological Treatment**
 - 9.13 ASAM Patient Placement Criteria Levels of Care.**
- 10.0 Co-Occurring and Medical Disorders Among Patients with Alcohol and Other Drug Use**
 - 10.1 General Medical Evaluation and Management**
 - 10.2 General Medical and Surgical Complications**
 - 10.3 Cardiovascular Consequences**
 - 10.4 Hepatic Disorders**
 - 10.5 Other Gastrointestinal Disorders**
 - 10.6 Renal and Metabolic Disorders**
 - 10.7 Respiratory Disorders**
 - 10.8 Neurological Disorders**
 - 10.9 Infectious Diseases (HIV, TB, Sexually transmitted infections, and Others)**
 - 10.10 Hematologic Disorders**
 - 10.11 Sleep Disorders**
 - 10.12 Traumatic Injuries**
 - 10.13 Endocrine and Reproductive Disorders**
 - 10.14 Pregnancy Related Disorders and Complications**
 - 10.15 Fetal Drug Exposure, Including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (Wunsch)**
- 11.0 Co-Occurring Addiction and Psychiatric Disorders**
 - 11.1 Neuropsychological Dysfunction (Problems with attention, memory, learning, executive**

function)

- 11.2 Substance Induced Mental Disorders
- 11.3 Affective Disorders
- 11.4 Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- 11.5 Other Anxiety Disorders
- 11.6 Psychotic Disorders
- 11.7 Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- 11.8 Eating Disorders
- 11.9 Personality Disorders
- 11.10 Cognitive and Behavioral Diagnoses Secondary to Inutero Alcohol and Drug Exposure

12.0 Pain and Addiction

- 12.1 Musculoskeletal and Orthopedic Problems
- 12.2 Chronic Pain and Addiction
- 12.3 Psychological Issues in the Management of Pain
- 12.4 Non-Opioid Treatments in Management of Pain
- 12.5 Opioid Treatments in Management of Pain
- 12.6 Legal and Regulatory Considerations in Pain Management

SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

- 13.0 Ethical, Legal and Liability Issues in Addiction Practice
- 13.1 Ethical Issues in Addiction Practice
- 13.2 Informed Consent and Confidentiality in Clinical Practice
- 13.3 Clinical and Legal Considerations in Prescribing Drugs for Treatment of Addiction
- 13.4 Clinical and Legal Considerations in Drug Testing
 - 13.4.1.1 Workplace Drug Testing and Role of the Medical Review Officer
 - 13.4.1.2 Drug Testing in Adolescents
- 13.5 Drug Courts and the Treatment of Incarcerated Populations
- 13.6 Licensing and Credentialing Issues for Health Professionals
- 13.7 Forensic Addiction Medicine: Expert Witness and Civil Commitment
- 13.8 Environmental tobacco smoke
- 13.9 Disability and Substance Use