

Title: Treatment of drug addiction in primary healthcare

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The majority of people with alcohol related problems (risky use, harmful use, and dependence) attend the practices of their general practitioners at least once a year. In contrast, even in countries with a comprehensive healthcare system, only a minority of people with alcohol related problems participate in drug-specific treatment. Given this background, general practitioners have an important role in screening, diagnosis and motivation of patients with alcohol related problems. There are established screening instruments (CAGE, AUDIT). Diagnosis is established according to ICD-10 and DSM IV, respectively. Motivational interventions are successfully carried out according to the principles: feedback, responsibility, advice, man, empathy, self-efficacy (FRAMES; Miller and Sanchez, 1994). The aim of this motivational interviewing is to elicit behaviour change regarding the use of alcohol by helping the client to explore and resolve ambivalence (Rollnick and Miller, 1995). During the last decade, the first medications (acamprosate, naltrexone) were proven as effective in maintaining alcohol abstinence after drug-specific treatment, and were licensed for use in the health care system. This kind of medical treatment might be a new task for the treatment of addictive disorders in primary healthcare.