CONCLUSION

All nurses working in acute and primary care have a role in detecting clients with mental health problems who use substances. Nurses should be alert to possible signs of substance use in those with diagnosed mental health problems, and should also be aware that clients who attend addiction services may have a mental illness.

Nurses should find out what services are available in their area, for example, whether there is a specific dual diagnosis service or champion, and should refer clients appropriately.

Practitioners working in mental health and addiction services are involved in engaging and treating clients with dual diagnosis, and should work to ensure they receive joined up services in an integrated model where possible.

REFERENCE


