

centre for addictology

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Centre for Addictology, 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University, in cooperation
with Czech institute for addictology
invites you cordially to the public presentation

Wouter Vanderplasschen

Case management for substance abusers: some findings and reflections based on evidence and practice

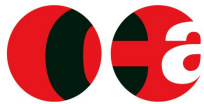
Main lecture hall of Psychiatric clinic, Ke Karlovu 11, Prague 2
Thursday, March 27th, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

Case management has been adapted to work with persons with substance use disorders in various countries, based on the recognition that these persons often have significant problems in addition to their substance abuse. Given the lack of clarity concerning its conceptualization, interpretation and effectiveness, we look in this article at the objectives, target group, models and features of case management and at case managers' basic tasks and functions. Further, we explore whether case management should be seen as a panacea, a makeshift or rather a binding agent.

Case management is often directed at (chronic) substance abusers with multiple and complex problems with the aim of optimising the provision of services according to individuals' needs. Due to the lack of a common definition, this intervention can be characterized most accurately by its core functions: assessment, planning, linking, monitoring and advocacy. The combination of these functions and some other specific features makes this intervention a unique and valuable supplement to existing services. Several models of case management can be distinguished for working with persons with substance use disorders: brokerage case management, the generalist model/intensive case management, assertive community treatment, strengths-based case management, and the clinical/rehabilitation model. However, it remains unclear which model is best suited for which population.

It is concluded that case management is clearly no panacea for all drug-related problems and all substance abusers, although it is effective as a strategy for linking substance abusers to the services they need, and thus – indirectly - for affecting primary treatment outcomes such as drug use and housing status.





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Wouter Vanderplasschen, Ph.D is assistant professor at the Ghent University, Department of Orthopedagogics. He made his Ph. D-dissertation on the implementation and evaluation of case management for substance abusers in Belgium. He supervised various research projects concerning the evaluation of substance abuse treatment and concerning specific populations that tend to fall through the cracks of the treatment system (e.g. ethnic minorities, substance abusing mothers). He recently finished a Cochrane review concerning case management for persons with substance use disorders. He teaches 'Assessment and treatment planning', 'Organisation of treatment' and 'Substance Misuse' to Master-students in Special Education at the Ghent University.

Public presentation is free of charge and will be held in English.

The **Centre for Addictology** is an integral part of the Psychiatric Clinic of the 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague. The Centre focuses on inquiry into various forms of human activity that might potentially lead to the acquisition of dependent behaviour, as well as the development of appropriate evidence-based responses to it.

The Centre's core activities fall into three areas: (i) a bachelor's level study course in Addictology; (ii) research into and development of new approaches to the prevention, treatment, and social rehabilitation of persons suffering as a result of their dependent behaviour, and (iii) the development and implementation of a programme of lifelong education for professionals in the field of Addictology.

