



Management of Substance Dependence DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT & HIV/AIDS

WHO COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT ON DRUG DEPENDENCE TREAT- MENT AND HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS prevention capacity of drug treatment services can be strengthened by introducing, linking or improving HIV preventive interventions across different treatment programmes. Substitution maintenance therapy for opioid dependence proved to be particularly effective for HIV prevention and can serve as a platform for antiretroviral (ARV) treatment of drug-dependent people with HIV/AIDS.

However, in many countries with HIV/AIDS epidemics among injection drug users (IDUs) substitution therapy of opioid dependence is either not available or provided on a very limited scale, not sufficient to make an impact on HIV/AIDS incidence.

Introduction and scaling up of the programmes of substitution maintenance treatment is being hampered by many factors, including concerns about their effectiveness in specific cultural and treatment contexts as well as concerns about their adequate provision and potential for diversion.

The WHO Collaborative Research Project on Drug Dependence Treatment and HIV/AIDS envisages three main inter-related components:

1. Evaluation of substitution treatment of opioid dependence in selected regions and countries

This component will include process and outcome evaluations of pilot or relatively new programmes. It will lead to the preparation of guidelines for the development and evaluation of opioid maintenance treatment programmes, including a training package.

2. Development of guidelines on integration of HIV-preventive interventions and evaluation of HIV/AIDS preventive capacity of drug treatment services

This component will focus on development of an essential package of HIV preventive interventions applicable across various drug treatment programmes.

3. Development of principles of HIV/AIDS treatment and care in drug treatment services

This component envisages preparation of a literature review, development and publication of an advocacy paper on HIV/AIDS treatment and care of drug-dependent people, as well as the development of guiding principles for management of drug-dependent clients with HIV/AIDS, which will be piloted in the selected sites.

Future activities will be focused on increased coverage and quality of substitution treatment for the management of opioid dependence and HIV prevention as well as ARV treatment and care of drug-dependent people with HIV/AIDS.

Participating Countries

China (Beijing) - in preparation stage
Indonesia (Bali and Jakarta)
Lithuania (Vilnius)
Poland (Warsaw)
Thailand (Bangkok)
Ukraine (Kherson and Kiev) - in preparation stage



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