

ST2-ADD-EPA2 – Comorbid substance use

Area of practice	Addiction psychiatry	EPA identification	ST2-ADD-EPA2
Stage of training	Stage 2 – Proficient	Version	v0.6 (BOE-approved 04/05/12)
The following EPA will be entrusted when your supervisor is confident that you can be trusted to perform the activity described at the required standard without more than distant (reactive) supervision. Your supervisor feels confident that you know when to ask for additional help and that you can be trusted to appropriately seek assistance in a timely manner.			
Title	Comorbid mental health and substance use problems.		
Description Maximum 150 words	Integrated assessment and management of a person’s substance use and mental health problems. The trainee demonstrates the ability to assess, conduct appropriate physical and cognitive assessment, formulate, consider differential diagnoses and develop integrated management strategies. They are able to explain the relationship between the person’s substance use and mental health to patients, family and staff. The trainee demonstrates awareness of challenges posed by comorbidity.		
Fellowship competencies	ME	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	HA
	COM	1, 2	SCH 1, 2
	COL	1, 2, 3, 4	PROF 1, 2, 5
	MAN	4	
Knowledge, skills and attitude required The following lists are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive.	<p>Competence is demonstrated if the trainee has shown sufficient aspects of the knowledge, skills and attitude described below.</p> <p>Ability to apply an adequate knowledge base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan shows appropriate use of services available to persons with comorbidity. • Theories explaining comorbid substance use and other mental health disorders. • Understand the effects of ongoing substance use on diagnostic accuracy. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate assessment of each problem and their interrelatedness (including temporal relationship) for this person. • Appropriate ongoing assessment and diagnostic revision. • Ability to formulate for the patient, their family and colleagues. • Appropriate engagement of family and others in assessment and management. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a management plan that shows a detailed understanding of the interrelatedness of the comorbid conditions. • Demonstration of advocacy for patients with comorbid substance use problems. <p>Attitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopts a non-judgemental, empathic and hopeful approach to the engagement of persons with mental illness and substance use disorder. • Willingness to engage with such persons who are often poorly serviced. • Maintains therapeutic optimism.
Assessment method	Progressively assessed during individual and clinical supervision, including three appropriate WBAs.
Suggested assessment method details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case-based discussion. • Observed Clinical Activity (OCA). • Professional presentation – of a specific comorbidity, eg. cannabis and psychosis, anxiety/depression and alcohol.
References	

COL, Collaborator; COM, Communicator; HA, Health Advocate; MAN, Manager; ME, Medical Expert; PROF, Professional; SCH, Scholar