ST2-ADD-EPA2 – Comorbid substance use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of practice</th>
<th>Addiction psychiatry</th>
<th>EPA identification</th>
<th>ST2-ADD-EPA2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage of training</td>
<td>Stage 2 – Proficient</td>
<td>Version</td>
<td>v0.6 (BOE-approved 04/05/12)</td>
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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**
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.

**Ability to apply an adequate knowledge base**
- 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.

**Skills**
- 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.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment method</th>
<th>Progressively assessed during individual and clinical supervision, including three appropriate WBAs.</th>
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| Suggested assessment method details | • 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