### Title
Management of chronic pain with comorbid substance misuse.

### Description
The trainee will demonstrate an ability to identify and manage patients with substance use disorders (including tobacco) and other psychiatric disorders in pain treatment settings and provide primary (face-to-face), secondary and tertiary consultations and liaison to other healthcare providers involved with the patients.

The trainee needs to demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills and professional attitude in all the following areas:

- management of withdrawal or stabilisation of substance use in chronic pain patients
- management of substance use disorders and other comorbid psychiatric disorders in people with chronic pain
- advise and implement a plan to manage acute and chronic pain for patients with identified substance use disorders
- provide in-service professional development relating to alcohol and other drugs and other psychiatric disorders for clinicians working in pain treatment settings.

### Fellowship competencies

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### Knowledge, skills and attitude required

Competence is demonstrated if the trainee has shown sufficient aspects of the knowledge, skills and attitude described below.

**Ability to apply an adequate knowledge base**

- The factors contributing to pain syndromes including addiction, physical problems, psychosomatic factors, primary and secondary gain and other psychiatric conditions.
- Understand the potential for pharmacological and psychological management of chronic pain to be complicated by substance dependence.
• Understand the principles of opioid rotation in the management of chronic pain.
• Understand the principles of management of acute and chronic pain in opioid maintenance patients.
• Knowledge of local legislative requirements regarding prescribing opioids and other restricted medications.
• Understand the similarities of neurobiology between chronic pain and addiction.
• Knowledge of the literature around stigma and discrimination towards individuals with psychiatric and/or addiction disorders and its impact on treatment choices.

Skills
• Capacity to synthesise and formulate the physiological, psychological and social processes involved in the maintenance of the patients’ disease and addictive process.
• Implement multidisciplinary management plans in pain clinics.
• Implement psychological treatments for patients with complicated chronic pain problems associated with addiction and/or other psychiatric disorders.
• Educate clinicians working in pain treatment settings on relevant addiction problems.
• Communicate advice effectively, both orally and in writing, and appropriately record outcomes.

Attitude
• Non-judgemental attitude.
• Foster collaboration and partnership with medical specialists and other health professionals.
• Advocate for the substance-using patient within a multi-agency setting.
• Awareness of the stigma associated with an addiction and/or other psychiatric diagnosis in a general medical setting.

**Assessment method**
Progressively assessed during individual and clinical supervision, including three appropriate WBAs.

**Suggested assessment method details**
• Case-based discussion.
• Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise.
• Multisource feedback from other supervisors and colleagues involved in care of patient.
• Observed Clinical Activity (OCA).

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