

EVIDENCE BASED MODELS OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALCOHOL USE DISORDER IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SETTINGS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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Introduction and Aims: Effective treatments for alcohol use disorders (AUD) are available but are not commonly practiced in primary care. The objective of this systematic review was, 1) to synthesise different models of care for the management of AUD in primary care; 2) to evaluate effectiveness in increasing treatment engagement and reducing alcohol consumption.

Method / Approach: A comprehensive search was conducted. Patients had to meet criteria for hazardous alcohol use and/or AUD. The intervention had to consist of a model of care and include multiple components. For the critical appraisal the Cochrane risk of bias tool 2.0 was used.

Key Findings: Eleven studies were included. Common concepts were the chronic care model and/or extended brief intervention. 5 out of 6 chronic care models reported increased engagement. The pooled effect size of 4 studies showed that chronic care participants were more likely to access treatment compared to usual primary care (OR (95%CI) =2.12(1.26, 3.57). AUD-pharmacotherapy uptake was also higher (OR (95%CI) = 2.71(1.20, 6.12). 3 out of 6 chronic care models reported increased abstinence and/or decreased heavy drinking. Information on engagement was limited for the remaining studies (e.g. stepped care, multi-faceted intervention). All remaining studies reported reduced alcohol consumption but only 2 studies were statistically significant.

Discussions and Conclusions: There is a paucity of published studies. Due to limited consensus of primary outcome measures, pooling of effectiveness measures was incomplete. However, this systematic review demonstrated evidence supporting the role of alcohol care management in primary care settings.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The Australasian Professional Society for Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) recognises the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in all written publications.

Authors declare no financial interest.