

**Case management for people with substance abuse disorders can improve linkage with relevant services**

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| <b>Clinical question</b>                            | Is case management helpful for people with substance abuse disorders?  |
| <b>Bottom line</b>                                  | Compared with treatment as usual or other variable treatment options, such as psycho-education or brief interventions, case management can enhance linkage with other community and treatment services. The use of a manual to guide the delivery of case management seemed to increase linkage. |
| <b>Caveat</b>                                       | The extent of linkage varied significantly between studies. There was no conclusive evidence that case management improved other outcomes, such as reducing drug use. One study was conducted in Europe; the other studies were conducted in North America.                                      |
| <b>Context</b>                                      | Case management is a client-centred strategy involving assessment, planning, linking to relevant services and community resources, and advocacy. The intent is to improve the coordination and continuity of delivery of services.   |
| <b>Cochrane Systematic Review</b>                   | Hesse M et al. Case management for persons with substance abuse disorders. Cochrane Reviews 2007, Issue 4. Art No : CD006265 .DOI : 10.1002/14651858.CD006265.pub 2. The review contains 15 studies involving 2,391 participants.  |
| Pearls No. 52 April 2008, written by Brian R McAvoy |  |

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