Involuntary Treatment for Substance Use Disorders: 6 Month Outcome

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Two questions

• Is the dyscontrol and compulsion of addiction sufficient to sufficiently impair the individual’s autonomy to the extent that we are justified in over-riding this, by instituting coercive treatment?

• If yes, is treatment under these circumstances effective?
Drug and Alcohol Treatment
ACT 2007

• The Inebriates ACT 1912 repealed very few changes in 100 years

• September 4th 2012 Drug and Alcohol Treatment ACT 2007 ratified and 2 Units opened

• Herbert Street Clinic, RNS Sydney – 4 Beds
  Lachlan Unit, OHS Bloomfield Campus – 8 Beds

Involuntary treatment criteria

• The person has a severe substance dependence

• Care, treatment or control of the person is necessary to protect the person from serious harm

• The person is likely to benefit from the treatment for his or her substance dependence but has refused treatment

• No other appropriate and less restrictive means for dealing with the person are reasonably available
Program Aims

• Provide a short term intervention to remove the patient from immediate danger

• Allow the patient an opportunity to withdraw from alcohol and other drugs in a safe environment

• Allow the opportunity for the patient to stabilise and rebuild physical and mental health

• Enable the patient to address physical, mental and neurological issues

THE INCREDIBLE TEAM
The first two years

- 135 patients
- Aged 19 – 73
- Males : females  60:40
- Alcohol 73%, other drugs 27%
- Discharged to voluntary rehab 26 (19%)
- Placed under formal guardianship:  30 (23%)
- Average length of stay just over one month

6 months follow up outcomes
Follow up post IDAT

- Support returning back into the community
- Guardianship including financial management
- Housing support
- Use of brokerage funds
- Links to identifies services
- Reconnecting with family

What does this mean

- Decrease in hospital presentations and admissions
- Reduction in alcohol/substances intake
- Links to appropriate rehabs and services
- Ability to gain new skills
- Increased healthy lifestyles
- Reconnecting with family & community
Case study

- 61 year old male
- Living alone in private rental
- Principal diagnosis
  - Alcohol dependence
- Additional diagnoses
  - depression with suicidal ideations
- Daily nicotine smoker
- Non compliance with medications
- Multiple hospital presentations prior IDAT
- Hospital presentations post IDAT = 0
- Continued to engage with community services

Referral process

- ADIS
  - Sydney metropolitan 02 9361 8000
  - Regional & rural NSW Freecall * 1800 422 599
- Local Drug and Alcohol Helpline
- Medical Practitioner
- Involuntary Treatment Liaison Officer (ITLO)
Contact

Involuntary Drug and Alcohol Treatment Unit
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