



REDUCING THE RISK OF DRUG OVERDOSE

Trainer: Andrew Rome RMN, Director of Research & Consultancy

Max. participants: 16

Course Content

The rate of drug deaths in Scotland is higher than other parts of the UK and Europe (EMCDDA, 2006). Most of these deaths (66%) occurred in people who were drug dependent (GROS, 2008), in their late twenties or thirties with a history of drug use and overdose (Zador et al, 2005). In 2008, Andrew Rome was the lead author of a research report commissioned by Scottish Government entitled, "Reducing Drug Users' Risk of Overdose". This included an international review of literature and set out a number of key recommendations including: *Recommendation 4 - Information and training for emergency service staff, clinical staff and service professionals:*

- Drug workers should receive updated overdose information and training as part of their continuous professional development. This may allow for improvement in cascading information to client groups and those most at risk.
- Overdose awareness training should be made available to all police, ambulance staff and clinical staff working in primary care and hospitals. This should cover the prevention and management of overdose as well as the principles of harm reduction.
- Overdose awareness training should include guidance on how to manage an overdose situation and reduce the potential for diffusion of responsibility.

This course has been designed around the evidence and key findings of this work and is appropriate for anyone who works with drug users and their families.

Learning Objectives

The training aims to give participants the opportunity to:

- Review and discuss recent international research on the prevention and management of overdose.
- Discuss current trends in fatal & non-fatal overdose.
- Compare and contrast the range of measures which could reduce the risk of drug overdose and how these could be applied in your area.
- Consider how information regarding drug overdose prevention strategies can be shared with work colleagues, service users and their families.