**COVID-19 guidance and information governance on substance use disorders – protocol**

We created a multidisciplinary team (including mental health clinicians, researchers, methodologists, and a pharmacist) within the Oxford Precision Psychiatry Lab to systematically collect and assess available guidelines and information governance focusing on substance use disorders and misuse of substances in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic and afterwards. Following a similar process already employed to synthesise evidence on several topics (<https://oxfordhealthbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-work/oxppl/covid-19-and-mental-health-guidance/>), we will systematically search English language websites from a list of English-speaking countries (i.e. United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Singapore) for relevant guidelines, information governance and recommendations. At least two researchers will independently search the following sources in English:

* Governmental institutions: Public Health England (PHE) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov>), US Department of Labor (<https://www.dol.gov>), Singapore Ministry of Health (SMH) (<https://www.moh.gov.sg>), Health Canada (Government department) (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>), Australian Government Department of Health (<https://www.health.gov.au>), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) (<https://www.samhsa.gov>), and Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) (<https://csam-smca.org>).
* Professional bodies: Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) (<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk>), Royal College of Nursing (RCN) (<https://www.rcn.org.uk>), Royal College of Physicians (RCP) (<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk>), American Psychiatric Association (APA) (<https://www.psychiatry.org>), Singapore Psychiatric Association (SPA) (<http://www.singaporepsychiatry.org.sg>), Singapore Medical Association (SMA) (<https://www.sma.org.sg>), Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) (<https://www.cpa-apc.org>), Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) (<https://www.ranzcp.org/home>).
* Health Technology Agencies (HTA): The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (<https://www.nice.org.uk>), Healthcare Improvement Scotland (<https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org>).
* International agencies: World Health Organization (WHO) (<https://www.who.int>), Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) (<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org>), UNICEF (<https://www.unicef.org>), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/emcdda-home-page_en>).
* Scientific societies: The National Association of Psychiatric Intensive Care and Low Secure Units (NAPICU) (<https://napicu.org.uk>), RCPsych with British Geriatric Society and European Delirium Association (<https://www.bgs.org.uk>), Massachusetts General Hospital Psychiatry (<https://www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry>), World Psychiatry Association (WPA) (<https://www.wpanet.org>), British Association of Psychopharmacology (BAP) (<https://www.bap.org.uk>), Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) (<https://www.shaap.org.uk>).

These websites will be inspected for any other potentially relevant source. We will expand our search strategy by searching a list of keywords relevant to COVID-19 and the topic of interest on Google. Queries or disagreements will be resolved by discussion with and involvement of senior researchers. Then, we will group the available recommendations into a questions and answers format, appraising the identified recommendations according to type of source organisations and institutions (i.e. governmental institutions, professional bodies, healthcare technology assessment (HTA), international agencies, scientific societies).