

2025 Pain Care Skills Training (PCST) & Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Combined Agenda

Substance Use Disorders in Women: Unique Challenges, Treatment Strategies for Primary Care Settings, and Legal and Ethical Considerations

**Presented by: Tracy Simpson, PhD; Hildi Hagedorn, PhD; Amy Kennedy, MD, MS;
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Kristyn Straw-Wilson, PharmD, BCPP; Andrea Kalvesmaki, PhD**

Offered: 13 August 2025, 1300–1700 PM ET

Location: ZoomGov

Course Description: There are unique challenges related to the reproductive cycle and common comorbidities including military sexual and interpersonal trauma that should be considered when addressing substance use disorders among women. Women may also feel less comfortable in predominantly male group substance use disorder treatment settings, highlighting the need for options to treat women where they present for care and feel comfortable such as primary care, mental health care, or OB/GYN settings. Legal concerns regarding childbearing and child custody may also impact women's comfort in engaging in substance use disorders treatment. This workshop will provide an overview of unique challenges related to treating women for substance use disorder, provide an overview of treatment strategies for alcohol use disorder and opioid use disorder which can be integrated into primary care, mental health care, and OB/GYN settings, and review potential legal and ethical concerns of women patients and their providers related to engagement with substance use disorder treatment.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe unique challenges, differences in presentation and common comorbidities faced by women with substance use disorders
2. Be able to screen for, identify, and learn ways to integrate treatment for unhealthy alcohol use and alcohol use disorder in women into primary care, mental health care, and OB/GYN settings
3. Be able to identify and learn ways to integrate treatment for opioid use disorder in women into primary care, mental health care, and OB/GYN settings
4. Identify medication treatment options available for alcohol and opioid use disorder
5. Understand legal and ethical concerns of women and their providers related to addressing substance use disorders problems, particularly in the peri-natal and post-partum periods

13 August 1300–1700 PM ET

1300–1310 Introduction to and Overview of Workshop

1310–1340 Factors to Consider When Treating SUD in Women: Differences in Presentation/Reproductive Cycles/MST/Interpersonal Trauma

1340–1430 Identifying, Assessing and Addressing Unhealthy Alcohol Use and Alcohol Use Disorder

1430–1445 ----- BREAK-----

1445–1555 Identifying, Assessing and Treating Opioid Use Disorder

1555–1630 Considerations for Supporting MOUD/SUD Treatment for Women With Children at Home

1630–1700 Q & A, Discussion and Wrap-Up