

# BC ECHO on SUBSTANCE USE



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CENTRE ON  
SUBSTANCE USE

## Monthly Newsletter: November 2020

In this issue of the BC ECHO on Substance Use newsletter, you'll find resources, news updates, and feature articles on topics related to substance use care in BC and Yukon.

### The harms of criminalizing substance use: An interview with Dr. Bonnie Henry



*Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's provincial health officer, at the release her report, "Stopping the Harm: Decriminalization of People Who Use Drugs in BC."  
Photo courtesy [Province of British Columbia](#).*

The criminalization of substance use causes demonstrable harms: it isolates people who use drugs, pushes them to use in riskier ways, and deters them from seeking help when they need it.

For a recent episode of the [Addiction Practice Pod](#), we spoke with Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer, to discuss the years-long overdose crisis in British Columbia, how the criminalization of substance use negatively impacts lives and health, and what role clinicians can play in reducing these harms in the absence of systemic change.

Read the interview here:

- [The Harms of Criminalizing Substance Use: An Interview with Dr. Bonnie Henry](#)
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## Listen up: New episodes of the Addiction Practice Pod



The BC ECHO on Substance Use's [Addiction Practice Pod](#) offers practical tips and guidance to health care providers seeking to enhance their skills in addiction care.

Listen and subscribe to our first season of episodes, which aim to support primary care providers to deliver evidence-based, compassionate, trauma- and violence-informed care to patients with substance use disorders.

- [Episode 1: Supporting patients to achieve their recovery goals](#)
  - [Episode 2: Bringing substance use care into your primary care practice](#)
  - [Episode 3: Substance use disorders and trauma- and violence-informed care](#)
  - [Episode 4: Providing compassionate care to young people who use substances](#)
  - [Episode 5: The harms of criminalizing substance use](#)
  - *Episode 6: Indigenous Voices - coming December 1st!*
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**The lines are open: 24/7 addiction clinician support**



Telephone consultation for physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, midwives, and pharmacists providing addiction and substance use care

Available 24/7, 365 days a year

More info at [www.bccsu.ca/24-7](http://www.bccsu.ca/24-7)

**CALL 778-945-7619**

Questions about providing care for your patient?

The [24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line](#) will connect you to an addiction medicine specialist who has expertise and knowledge in addiction medicine (including emergency, acute, and community care). Consultation can include support in screening, assessment, treatment and management of substance use and substance use disorder(s) to improve the health outcomes for these clients.

Call 778-945-7619 for support.

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## **News and features from the BC ECHO on Substance Use and partners**

[News \(from BC Coroners Service\): More than five people a day dying from drug toxicity](#)

[News \(from Mayor of Vancouver\): Mayor Stewart announces plan to decriminalize simple possession of drugs in Vancouver](#)

[News \(from BCCSU\): BCCSU statement on plan to decriminalize simple possession of drugs in Vancouver](#)

[News \(from Toward the Heart\): Harm reduction supply program announcement – safer smoking supplies](#)

[News \(from BCCSU\): In continuing opioid crisis, cannabis can't be overlooked as a life-saving measure](#)

[Report \(from Drug Shortages Canada\): Acamprosate is back to regular stock availability and is not longer in shortage in BC](#)

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## **New resources for substance use care**

### **Tablet Injection**

Developed in collaboration with BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Toward the Heart, we're happy to share new resources for anyone who is injecting pills and would like to do so more safely, along with resources for

clinicians to support these individuals.

- [BCCSU safer tablet injection resource for clinicians providing care to patients who may inject oral formulations](#)
- [BCCDC videos on tablet filtration](#)
- [BCCDC print resource on how to filter tablet medications for injection](#)
- [Toward the Heart - Harm Reduction Site Finder](#)
- [Toward the Heart - BCCDC Harm Reduction Services](#)

### **Recovery Services**

The BCCSU has developed a list of residential treatment and supportive recovery services In British Columbia. As a public resource, these lists are an easily accessible tool for individuals to find service options available in their community.

- [Residential Treatment and Supportive Recovery Services In BC](#)

### **COVID-19 and Substance Use**

As COVID-19 continues, the provision of evidence-based, compassionate care to people who use substances is as important as ever. The [BC Centre on Substance Use \(BCCSU\)](#) has developed guidance and other resources to assist prescribers and clinicians in supporting people with substance use disorders at this time.

[BCCSU's list of COVID-19 resources for clinicians and prescribers, service providers, and people who use substances here.](#)

### **New Education and Training Resources**

[Substance Use Care for 2SLGBTQ+ Module in Addiction Care and Treatment Online Course \(ACTOC\)](#): Through eight guiding principles, this module (Module 17) provides a framework for substance use care for 2SLGBTQ+ people that clinicians can apply in practice to provide improved and inclusive care.

[New Acute Care Stream in POATSP](#): As part of the provincial [LOUD in the ED initiative](#) that is co-led by the BCCSU, BC Patient Safety and Quality Council, and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, we have updated Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program (POATSP) to include a stream designed for acute care professionals (in-hospital and emergency department clinicians). Two of the updated modules in the stream include Module 23: Opioid Use Disorder and Acute Care Hospital Settings and Module 24: Buprenorphine/naloxone in Acute Care Hospital Settings.

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## **BC ECHO on Substance Use programming**

Don't forget you can sign up for upcoming session of the BC ECHO on Substance Use at [bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca](http://bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca). Here's what's coming up:

### **Opioid Use Disorder ECHO**

- December 1, 12pm - 1pm: [Continuity of care when transitioning between care settings: From corrections to community](#)

- December 15, 12pm - 1pm: [Optimizing OAT and Considering Pharmaceutical Alternatives to Reduce Risk of Overdose](#)

### **Alcohol Use Disorder ECHO**

- December 8, 12pm - 1pm: [Psychosocial and community-based interventions for alcohol use disorder](#)

You can join the BC ECHO on Substance Use at anytime. If you've already signed up, don't forget to complete your registration at [bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca](http://bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca) and support our evaluation of this programming.

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*The BC ECHO on Substance Use aims to build confidence and skills among primary care providers and their teams in British Columbia and Yukon. By bringing clinicians with addictions expertise and primary care providers together in a substance use community of practice, we hope to improve the implementation of evidence-based care in our communities.*

*This newsletter is one part of the BC ECHO on Substance Use, an initiative funded by Health Canada and the GPSC, a partnership of the Government of BC and Doctors of BC. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada or the GPSC.*

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