

P r e f a c e

Preface

It is indeed a pleasure to be associated with the task of compiling the manual on behalf of the World Health Organization (India) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Government of India). This manual is a product of intense deliberations and the felt need to prepare a formal document to facilitate the training of nurses in the field of substance abuse. It is intended to cover as many areas as can be envisaged. All the invited contributors for the manual are experts in the field with considerable experience.

The WHO has now officially changed the nomenclature and replaced the word 'drug' by 'substance' and 'addiction' is now called abuse or dependence, depending on the socio-cultural context and severity. However, in this chapter the term 'drug' and 'addiction' does find a mention in places where it is contextually relevant.

There may be some degree of overlap in the information given between chapters, which the editors have not deleted in order to maintain the coherence of individual chapters. Any suggestions for topics that have not been covered and are important may be informed, so that they may be addressed in the revised version.

An appendix is included. This includes common assessment scales and a proforma for clinical assessment. A glossary of technical terms also finds a place alongwith a list of De-addiction centres funded by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

We look forward to any suggestions for improvement and changes.

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