

PACES Learning Pathway – Phase 3 (Advancing)

General Information

The Provincial Addiction and Mental Health Curricula & Experiential Skills Learning Pathway (PACES) is an evolving five-phase sequential learning pathway providing accessible, self-paced, and personalized mental health and addiction education for all skill levels. It advances learners from a basic understanding to a mastery of the competencies required to assess, treat, and support recovery from addictions, mental health, or co-occurring disorders through eLearning modules, educational videos, simulated clinical scenarios, virtual skill-building sessions, and reflective practice tools.

Phase 3: Advancing

Course Access

Learners with MyLearningLink Access: Connect to MyLearningLink through the staff intranet and search for “PACES” to complete and catalogue these modules as part of your learning record.

External Learners: For learners who do not have access to MyLearningLink, the modules are accessible at the following link: www.ahs.ca/paces. Please follow the directions on the page to take the modules and to request a certificate.

Duration: Varied due to length of individual modules – see below for more details.

Developers: Recovery Alberta – Provincial Practice Supports

Team Contact: amh.practicesupports@recoveryalberta.ca

Global Learning Objective

Phase 3: Apply standard treatment practices for treating individuals experiencing substance use, mental health, or co-occurring disorders.

Course Descriptions

Title	Learning Objectives	Approx. Duration
Alcohol Use Disorder – Screening and Withdrawal Assessment	- Assess and interpret the signs and symptoms of alcohol use disorder and alcohol withdrawal in the emergency department. - Utilize screening tools to assess, initiate care and modify interventions for alcohol use disorder and alcohol withdrawal. - Demonstrate the skills required for therapeutic communication and a trauma-informed care approach.	1.5 hours

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Buprenorphine Naloxone Initiation in the Emergency Department	• Teach/educate the patient regarding opioid use risks, OUD, OAT and reviews opioid poisoning prevention strategies. • Implement a plan that ensures all required treatment agreement documentation is completed and patient information is provided for safe and effective home induction following initiation of buprenorphine naloxone in the emergency department. • Plan appropriate follow up and/or referral to a community provider to ensure safe and effective titration and maintenance upon completion of buprenorphine naloxone initiation in emergency department and/or home induction.	2 hours
Chronic Non-Cancer Pain Part 1: Comprehensive Assessment	• Teach/educate the patient regarding opioid use risks including opioid use disorder and ensure appropriate prescribing practice of chronic opioid therapy. • Conduct a strength-based comprehensive pain assessment that includes the dimensions of intoxication/withdrawal, biomedical conditions, emotional/behavioural/cognitive conditions and the patient's current recovery/living environment. • Formulate a DSM-5-TR diagnosis with relevant severity rating. • Determine if OAT is recommended.	2 hours
Chronic Non-Cancer Pain Part 2: Comprehensive Pain Management and De-Prescribing Opioids	• Teach/educate the patient regarding the components of comprehensive pain management, highlighting non-pharmacological strategies and utilizing a motivational approach to support positive change behaviour in the patient's opioid use. • Determine a collaborative treatment plan for de-prescribing opioids that is aligned with evidence-informed practice standards and guidelines. • Coordinate an appropriate follow up and/or referral to community providers to ensure the maintenance of comprehensive pain management.	2 hours

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