Caring without prejudice-
Pailliative and Hospice Care for
Drug and Alcohol Users

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
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Access:
Figure 2: Percentage of individuals participating in an initial assessment for specialist drug treatment in Scotland by age group (2006/07 – 2012/13)
Figure 5: Medical Conditions Recorded in the Six Months Prior to Death (2009-2012)

- Psychiatric condition
- Problem alcohol use
- Hepatitis C
- Respiratory condition
- Liver disease
- Epilepsy
- Cardiac Condition
- Hepatitis B or HIV / AIDS
- Diabetes
- Other medical conditions

% 

2009
2010
2011
2012

Medical Condition

National Drug Related Deaths Database
2014
Older and sicker: Changing mortality of drug users in treatment in the North West of England

Key Findings

– 77% of deaths in drug users over 40 are NOT drug related deaths
– The odds of a drug user aged 40 and over dying from a non-drug related death were 3.27 the odds of a person aged less than 40 dying from a non-drug related death
– Liver diseases (15.3%), neoplasm (13.1%), chronic lower respiratory infections (8.3%) and viral hepatitis (6.1%) were most common causes of death for non drug related deaths
The importance of blood-borne viruses in elevated cancer risk among opioid-dependent people: a population-based cohort study
Swart A, Burns L, Mao L, et al.

Key messages
– People who are opioid dependent have an excess risk of a range of cancers compared with the general population (lung, Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and liver in particular).
– The excess cancer risk is predominantly restricted to those with blood-borne virus infection.
– Cancer incidence rates have increased dramatically over time, supporting use of the opioid substitution therapy (OST) setting to opportunistically implement targeted cancer prevention strategies.
Alcohol and cancer
Paolo Boffetta, Mia Hashibe
Lancet Oncol 2006; 7: 149–56

- A causal association has been established between alcohol consumption and cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, liver, colon, rectum, and, in women, breast;
- an association is suspected for cancers of the pancreas and lung.
Results: Deprivation - shared care east

SIMD vigintile (1=most deprived 5%; 20=5% least deprived)
Palliative care and drug/alcohol users:

- Success!
- A common bio-psycho-social approach?

BUT

- Stigma
- Trauma and Trust
- Opioids!
  - e.g. “protocols and guidelines on terminal illness, while on a methadone prescription”
Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management – review proposal Public Health England
The Road to Recovery
A New Approach to Tackling Scotland's Drug Problem