

HIV & Mental Health Project

Mental Health within HIV Guidelines - Webinar

9 November 2023, 17:00-18:30 CET (18:00-19:30 EET)

Over the past few years, the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) has been working in a focused way on various aspects of HIV & Mental Health¹. During a couple of webinars on this topic earlier this year, the need was identified for updated HIV care guidelines across Europe and Central Asia that included more detail about mental health. For example, previous webinar participants noted services and professionals using outdated mental health diagnostic criteria or guidelines, e.g. being a trans person seen as a mental health disorder; lacking awareness of the complexities of living with HIV; and using outdated stigmatising approaches in the mental health care of people living with HIV.

Mental Health within HIV care guidelines is a follow-up webinar to explore some of the issues involved in updating existing standards of mental health care for people living with HIV in Europe and Central Asia. Updated standards relative to the mental health of people living with HIV could be more comprehensive, including serious as well as more common conditions, impacts of ageing, stigma, referral protocols back and forth across clinical and community settings, issues specific to adolescents, competencies for all providers whether professionals or lay/peers, etc.

The webinar is open to people involved in developing and updating HIV care guidelines relative to the mental health of people living with HIV, professionals and lay/peer/community workers in the field, pharmaceutical representatives, researchers, and people living with HIV with expertise on the issues. Live interpretation in English and Russian will be provided.

After the webinar, a summary will be produced of initial recommendations for updating existing HIV care guidelines to better address the mental health needs of people living with HIV.

Link for registration

To attend the webinar, please register [here](#).

Agenda

17:00 – 17:05	Introduction of Webinar and Speakers – <i>Mario Cascio</i>, Webinar Chair
Panel Discussion	
17:05 – 17:20	Tomás Campbell: <i>Psychological support for adults and adolescents living with HIV: Improving standards of care</i>
17:20 – 17:25	Questions for clarification – <i>Bryan Teixeira</i> , Discussion Moderator
17:25 – 17:40	Lena Nechosina: <i>Uniting the Mental Health and HIV Care Continuums: Improving standards and services.</i>

¹ The HIV & Mental Health project has been developed by the EATG, and was made possible through a grant from Gilead Sciences Europe Ltd, Merck Sharp and Dohme, and ViiV Healthcare Europe Ltd. EATG acknowledges that the sponsors had no control or input into the structure or the content of the initiative.

17:40 – 17:45	Questions for clarification – <i>Bryan Teixeira</i>
17:45 – 18:00	Peter Zajc: <i>Mental Healthcare Standards – Perspectives from the HIV Clinic, Ljubljana.</i>
18:00 – 18:05	Questions for clarification – <i>Bryan Teixeira</i>
Open Discussion	
18:05 – 18:25	Open Discussion – <i>Bryan Teixeira</i>
18:25 – 18:30	Closing Remarks – <i>Mario Casio</i>

Questions about the event? Email: bryan.eatg@gmail.com

'Stigma Free' campaign

On 10 October 2023, World Mental Health Day, EATG launches the ['Stigma-Free' campaign](#).

HIV & mental health stigma and discrimination undermine the physical and especially the mental health of people living with and vulnerable to HIV. Responding to this situation requires significantly more collaboration from workers across the **continuum of HIV and mental healthcare services**. This campaign calls on all workers to emphasise wellness, stigma-free and integrated services, and continuing education.

EATG's Stigma-Free HIV & Mental Health campaign focuses on how stigma and discrimination have a serious negative impact on the mental health of people living with and vulnerable to HIV. Sadly, this is also too often the case even in healthcare settings. The campaign also emphasises that improving **integration** across HIV and mental health services is central to addressing this situation.

HIV & mental health stigma and discrimination undermine the physical and especially the mental health of people living with and vulnerable to HIV. This is even more the case for those living with multiple or **intersecting marginalisations**, e.g. people who are living with HIV and also with tuberculosis or viral hepatitis, or are gay men, trans, gender non-conforming, belonging to ethnic minorities, indigenous people, drug users, migrants, prisoners, sex workers, or several of the above. **Addressing this situation will require much improved collaboration across professional and lay, clinical and psychosocial, hospital and clinic-led as well as community-based/led workers and services.**