

Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Withdrawal Guidelines 2022

Feedback template

Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch

Draft guideline: Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Withdrawal Guidelines 2022

Please read through the draft guideline and provide feedback by filling out the table below. Please note that document styling and formatting will be undertaken following consultation feedback. Please add more rows if required.

Keep these questions in mind as you read through the draft guideline:

- Clarity – Does the guideline provide clear instructions for clinicians providing alcohol and other drugs withdrawal care, including medication management?
- Considerations – are there further considerations required for specific populations in each of the specific drug chapters?
- Gaps – are there essential things or elements that are missing or need more detail?
- Rationale – is the scope and purpose of the guideline clearly articulated?
- Language / terminology – is the language / terminology consistent with contemporary approaches?
- Further advice – is there anything further you would like to add or note?

Please return your completed template to MHAODB-OCP@health.qld.gov.au by **COB 11 November 2022**.

Review completed by
(name,
organisation/clinical
network):

AMA Queensland

Global comments:

AMA Queensland thanks the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, Queensland Health for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft *Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Withdrawal Guidelines 2022* (the 'Guidelines'). The Guidelines are clear and consistent with current best practice approaches to alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and AMA Queensland welcomes the draft.

In reviewing the Guidelines, AMA Queensland also consulted with doctors and organisations active in the alcohol and other drug sector. These groups expressed the view that the Guidelines were developed collaboratively and with consideration of the current scientific evidence. AMA Queensland congratulates the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist for its adoption of this professional approach.

AMA Queensland notes that the Guidelines are 87 pages long and that the timeframe provided for feedback was limited to two (2) weeks. Whilst, in this instance, AMA Queensland welcomes the Guidelines and has not identified significant issues requiring detailed feedback, if such feedback had been required, this short timeframe would have been inadequate. The doctors who constitute AMA Queensland's Council and Committees do so on a voluntary basis and in addition to their essential work treating Queensland patients. Two weeks is insufficient for these medical professionals to provide considered and detailed feedback.

AMA Queensland submits that Queensland Health give consideration to the length of the document and level of complexity involved when determining the period in which feedback responses are required. This is essential for genuine consultation and to enable stakeholders to provide comprehensive and considered feedback.

Thank you again for providing AMA Queensland this opportunity and we look forward to the release of the finalised Guidelines.

Page number	Chapter and section	Comments/Feedback	Suggestions for improvement or replacement text
29	Table 3: Common symptomatic medications used in AOD withdrawal	[Please see comments under column titled 'Suggestions for improvement or replacement text']	Regarding the 'Symptomatic medication' for 'Nausea and vomiting', AMA Queensland has been advised that olanzapine may be used less frequently by doctors but that haloperidol is also sometimes used. Regarding the 'Symptomatic medication' for 'Insomnia', AMA Queensland suggests diazepam should also be included.
35-36	6.5 Electronic nicotine devices ('vaping')	AMA Queensland hold significant concerns about the safety and claimed benefits of nicotine vaping products. Aggressive marketing campaigns have been used to imply vaping products are a safe alternative to smoking, despite the fact they are linked to serious lung disease and often contain known carcinogens. A recent National Health and Medical Research	AMA Queensland submits that nicotine vaping products should not be recommended for use in any setting, including alcohol and drug withdrawal treatment and that this is made clear in the Guidelines.

Additional comments: