

CADTH Reference List

# Outpatient Withdrawal Management for Indigenous Peoples

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**Funding:** CADTH receives funding from Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with the exception of Quebec.

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## Key Messages

- We did not find any studies on the clinical effectiveness of outpatient withdrawal treatment interventions for any person who identifies as Indigenous within Canada.
- We did not find any evidence-based guidelines regarding outpatient withdrawal for any person who identifies as Indigenous within Canada.
- This report was based on studies identified in published literature and did not include Indigenous knowledge disseminated in oral traditions or other forms.
- We identified other references on the topic, which are listed in the appendix.

## Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of outpatient withdrawal treatment interventions for Indigenous Peoples within Canada?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding outpatient withdrawal treatment for Indigenous Peoples within Canada?

## Methods

### Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the International HTA Database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were Indigenous Peoples within Canada, substance use disorders, and outpatient treatments for substance withdrawal. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, indirect treatment comparisons, any types of clinical trials or observational studies, or guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to humans. The search was completed on January 13, 2023, and limited to English-language documents published since January 1, 2018. Internet links were provided, where available.

### Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in [Table 1](#). Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when available.

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

Criteria	Description
<b>Population</b>	Any person who identifies as Indigenous with substance dependence within Canada
<b>Intervention</b>	Any outpatient treatment for substance withdrawal, including culturally safe interventions and traditional healing practices (e.g., land-based practices)
<b>Comparator</b>	Q1: Any other outpatient treatment for substance withdrawal, placebo, or no treatment Q2: NA
<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1: Clinical benefits (e.g., symptoms, quality of life, satisfaction with care) Q2: Recommendations regarding the treatment of substance withdrawal (e.g., which treatments are recommended)
<b>Study designs</b>	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

NA = not applicable; Q = question.

## Results

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials or non-randomized studies were identified from the literature search regarding the clinical effectiveness of outpatient withdrawal treatment interventions for any person who identifies as Indigenous within Canada. No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified from the literature search regarding outpatient withdrawal treatment interventions for any person who identifies as Indigenous within Canada. This report was based on studies identified in published literature and did not include Indigenous knowledge disseminated in oral traditions or other forms.

References of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

## References

### Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

### Systematic Reviews

No literature identified.

### Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

### Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

## Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

### Systematic Reviews

#### *Alternative Population*

Krakouer J, Savaglio M, Taylor K, Skouteris H. Community-based models of alcohol and other drug support for First Nations peoples in Australia: A systematic review. *Drug Alcohol Rev.* 2022;41(6):1418-1427. [PubMed](#)

Mpofu E, Ingman S, Matthews-Juarez P, Rivera-Torres S, Juarez PD. Trending the evidence on opioid use disorder (OUD) continuum of care among rural American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) tribes: A systematic scoping review. *Addict Behav.* 2021; 114:106743. [PubMed](#)

#### *Unclear Population*

Andersen LAK, Munk S, Nielsen AS, Bilberg R. What is known about treatment aimed at Indigenous people suffering from alcohol use disorder? *J Ethn Subst Abuse.* 2021;20(4):508-542. [PubMed](#)

#### *Mixed Population – Indigenous Peoples within New Zealand, USA, and Canada*

Purcell-Khodr GC, Lee KSK, Conigrave JH, Webster E, Conigrave KM. What can primary care services do to help First Nations people with unhealthy alcohol use? A systematic review: Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. *Addict Sci Clin Pract.* 2020; 15(1):31. [PubMed](#)

### Randomized Controlled Trials

#### *Alternative Population*

Venner KL, Serier K, Sarafin R, et al. Culturally tailored evidence-based substance use disorder treatments are efficacious with an American Indian Southwest tribe: An open-label pilot-feasibility randomized controlled trial. *Addiction.* 2021;116(4):949-960. [PubMed](#)

D'Amico EJ, Dickerson DL, Brown RA, Johnson CL, Klein DJ, Agniel D. Motivational interviewing and culture for urban Native American youth (MICUNAY): A randomized controlled trial. *J Subst Abuse Treat.* 2020;111:86-99. [PubMed](#)

Patten CA, Lando HA, Desnoyers CA, et al. Healthy Pregnancies Project: Cluster randomized controlled trial of a community intervention to reduce tobacco use among Alaska Native women. *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 2020;17(24):9302. [PubMed](#)

### Non-Randomized Studies

#### *Alternative Population*

Calabria B, Shakeshaft AP, Clifford A, et al. Reducing drug and alcohol use and improving well-being for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians using the Community Reinforcement Approach: A feasibility and acceptability study. *Int J Psychol.* 2020;55 Suppl 1:88-95. [PubMed](#)

Daley CM, Daley SM, Pacheco CM, et al. Feasibility of implementing the All Nations Breath of Life culturally tailored smoking cessation program for American Indians in multi-tribal urban communities. *Nicotine Tob Res.* 2018;20(5):552-560. [PubMed](#)

### Guidelines and Recommendations

#### *Alternative Population*

Haber PS, Riordan BC, Winter DT, et al. New Australian guidelines for the treatment of alcohol problems: An overview of recommendations. *Med J Aust.* 2021;215 Suppl 7:S3-S32. [PubMed](#)

Refer to Chapter 4-Providing appropriate treatment and care to people with alcohol problems: a summary for key specific populations: Summary of recommendations and levels of evidence, page S21; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, pages S22-S24.

### Additional References

#### *Qualitative Studies*

Jardine M, Bourassa C. Addiction treatment models: Sources of resilience and empowerment among Indigenous Peoples. *Turt Isl J Indig Health.* 2021;1(2):36048. <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/tijih/article/view/36048>. Accessed 2023 Jan 19.

Lavalley J, Kastor S, Tourangeau M, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, Goodman A, Kerr T. You just have to have other models, our DNA is different: The experiences of Indigenous people who use illicit drugs and/or alcohol accessing substance use treatment. *Harm Reduct J.* 2020;17(1):19. [PubMed](#)

Argento E, Capler R, Thomas G, Lucas P, Tupper KW. Exploring ayahuasca-assisted therapy for addiction: A qualitative analysis of preliminary findings among an Indigenous community in Canada. *Drug Alcohol Rev.* 2019;38(7):781-789. [PubMed](#)

Naseba Marsh T, Marsh DC, Ozawagosh J, Ozawagosh F. The sweat lodge ceremony: A healing intervention for intergenerational trauma and substance use. *Int Indig Policy J.* 2018;9(2):7544. <https://ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/iipj/article/view/7544>. Accessed 2023 Jan 19.

Brett J, Dawson A, Ivers R, Lawrence L, Barclay S, Conigrave K. Healing at home: Developing a model for ambulatory alcohol “detox” in an Aboriginal community controlled health service. *Int J Indig Health.* 2017; 12(1):29073. <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/ijih/article/view/29073>. Accessed 2023 Jan 19.

## *Study Protocols*

Hines S, Carey TA, Hirvonen T, Martin K, Cibich M. Effectiveness and appropriateness of culturally adapted approaches to treating alcohol use disorders in Indigenous people: A mixed methods systematic review protocol. *JBI Evid Synth.* 2020;18(5):1100-1107. [PubMed](#)

Stewart T, Reilly R, Ward J. Community-based interventions to address alcohol and drug use in Indigenous populations in Australia, New Zealand and Canada: A systematic review protocol. *JBI Database System Rev Implement Rep.* 2018;16(7):1485-1489. [PubMed](#)