

What is QPCN?

The QPCN is a training initiative by experts and for experts developed to meet the clinical and educational needs revealed by a European survey among 300 physicians. It is currently in its pilot phase in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, extending into others countries later this year. The objective of this initiative is to improve treatment outcomes through the exchange of information, resources and best practice and its primary purpose is to improve the quality of life of people with opioid dependence.

The aim of the roundtable/meeting is to formulate practical and clinical evidence-based training, designed to develop technical skills and improve the daily practice of treating opioid dependence.

The programme has been developed specifically for the European therapeutic community by a group of leading international experts¹ and adapted for use in the UK by a national panel.²

The programme includes the following topics:

1. Overview of opioid dependence
2. Induction, stabilisation and transition between opiates
3. Treatment strategies and relapse prevention
4. Withdrawal of treatment
5. Safety and side effects of opioid maintenance
6. Complex presentations
7. Diversion and misuse

1. International expert group: Prof Gabriele Fischer, Prof Markus Heilig, Dr Claudio Leonardi, Prof Nicholas Lintzeris, Dr Michelle Lofwall, Dr Judith Myles, Dr Jens Reimer, Prof Luis Patricio, Prof Marta Torrens, Prof Sharon Walsh.

2. National expert group: Prof Ed Day, Dr Fergus Law, Dr Uday Mukherji, Dr Zelda Summers.