

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) GP Education Program

Handbook supplement – October 2021



The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) GP Education Program Handbook was developed in 2019 to support delivery of the education program.

The Program has now been extended and the RACGP will continue delivery until 2022.

This updated handbook supplement outlines the Program's education options from November 2021 – September 2022:

- Essential Skills
- Treatment Skills
- Advanced Skills
- AOD Connect: Project ECHO
- Supporting behaviour change for patients at higher risk of AOD use*
- Trauma-informed care for patients at higher risk of AOD use*
- RACGP AOD website resources

*New online course, no completion payment

Essential Skills Training – available to all RACGP members

Essential Skills Training is ideal for students, GPs in training, international medical graduates and members who want to refresh their AOD knowledge and skills in the current Australian context.

Learning outcomes:

- Distinguish key features of AOD in Australia and identify higher-risk groups
- Create a list of screening techniques for assessment of AOD use in patients
- Implement a safe and effective approach to engage with a person experiencing problematic AOD use
- Assess readiness to change in a patient experiencing AOD use disorders
- Determine appropriate patient management including when to refer to AOD treatment services

Delivery: Available on-demand now on *gplearning*

Duration: Four hours

CPD points: Completion of Essential Skills Education is accredited for eight points in the RACGP Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program for the 2020–22 triennium

Treatment Skills Training – more spaces now available

The RACGP has made a further 500 training places available to members, who must [apply online](#) and be accepted into Treatment Skills Training.

If accepted, participants have three months to complete the course online via *gplearning*. To apply, members will need to meet the Program's [eligibility criteria](#) and accept the [Terms and Conditions](#). Applications close 31 March 2022, or once all spaces have been filled.

Completion of Treatment Skills Training attracts a grant payment of \$1200 (exclusive of GST and subject to relevant taxation).

Learning outcomes:

- Assess why a patient is using AOD, the severity of risk and their readiness to change
- Discuss approaches to treating problematic AOD use, including enhancing patients' motivation to change
- Design a tailored treatment plan for patients, using a whole-person care approach
- Create a plan to assist patients to withdraw from AOD or minimise use and harm, in accordance with the patient's goals and needs
- Develop AOD treatment skills that are respectful of patient needs, while protecting the GP's health and boundaries

Delivery: Now available on *gplearning*
(AOD Live workshops are no longer available)

Duration: Minimum six hours

CPD points: Treatment Skills Training is an accredited activity as part of the RACGP CPD Program for the 2020–22 triennium and participants will receive 40 points for its completion

Advanced Skills Training – third intake available

Applications for a third and final intake of Advanced Skills Training open in November 2021 and close in March 2022, with limited places available.

Members can apply online through the [AOD GP Education Program website](#).

Advanced Skills Training is a self-directed program, where members develop and implement their own 20-hour AOD learning plan to address their unique learning needs. The training is ideal for those who want a bespoke learning experience to explore one or more topics related to the treatment of AOD use.

Completion of Advanced Skills Training attracts a grant payment of \$2500 (exclusive of GST and subject to relevant taxation).

As part of the application process, members will be asked to:

- identify a mentor of their choice – mentors can be GPs or any other Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)-registered health professional experienced in treating patients for AOD use
- reflect on the needs of their patients or community
- identify their own learning priorities (learning outcomes)
- set performance indicators
- outline a plan of activity.

As part of the application process, mentors will need to complete paperwork via the RACGP's *payGP* system, which allows them to be reimbursed for the support they provide. Mentors must complete this paperwork before a member's Advanced Skills Training application is approved by the RACGP.

The RACGP will contact your mentor and support them through the process of completing their paperwork.

Mentors must complete their paperwork by 21 March 2022 to allow members to complete their application.

Delivery: Blended approach (self-directed according to the participant's personalised learning plan)

CPD points: Advanced Skills Training is an accredited CPD clinical attachment for the RACGP CPD Program for the 2020–22 triennium and participants will receive 40 points for completion of this training pathway

AOD Connect: Project ECHO

AOD Connect: Project ECHO offers RACGP members a dedicated weekly time to connect online via Zoom to discuss their AOD patient cases with colleagues and a panel of experts.

There is no prerequisite to join. All RACGP members currently treating or interested in treating AOD patients are welcome.

RACGP members are required to register to receive a Zoom link via the [AOD GP Education Program website](#). Attendance at AOD Connect: Project ECHO does not attract a completion payment.

Delivery: Every Thursday from 7.30–8.30 pm from 3 February 2022 onwards

CPD points: Attendance at an AOD Connect: Project ECHO session is accredited for two points in the RACGP CPD Program for the 2020–22 triennium; participants must complete an evaluation survey at the end of each session to be eligible to receive these points

Higher Risk Groups – two new courses available from early 2022

The RACGP is set to launch two courses for members treating patients at higher risk of problems associated with their AOD use.

The first course is designed to educate GPs on motivational interviewing techniques that can help GPs illicit behaviour change for patients who lack confidence or are ambivalent about their AOD use.

The second course is an introduction to trauma-informed care principles and how they can support delivery of safe and effective care for the GP and their patient.

Delivery: Available on *gplearning* in early 2022

Duration: 2.5 hours

CPD points: Completion of Higher Risk Groups will be accredited for the RACGP CPD Program for the 2020–22 triennium

The RACGP is transforming the AOD GP Education Program website

We know time-poor GPs could use help finding the right AOD clinical information and resources quickly and easily.

So from early 2022, the AOD Program website will be transformed into an online resource library using resources developed over the life of the program. Members will have easy access to AOD information they'll find helpful when:

- in or between consultations
- considering their own professional development
- faced with problems supporting their patients who use AOD
- managing common comorbidities
- supporting behaviour change
- preventing GP burnout.

GPs will be able to access:

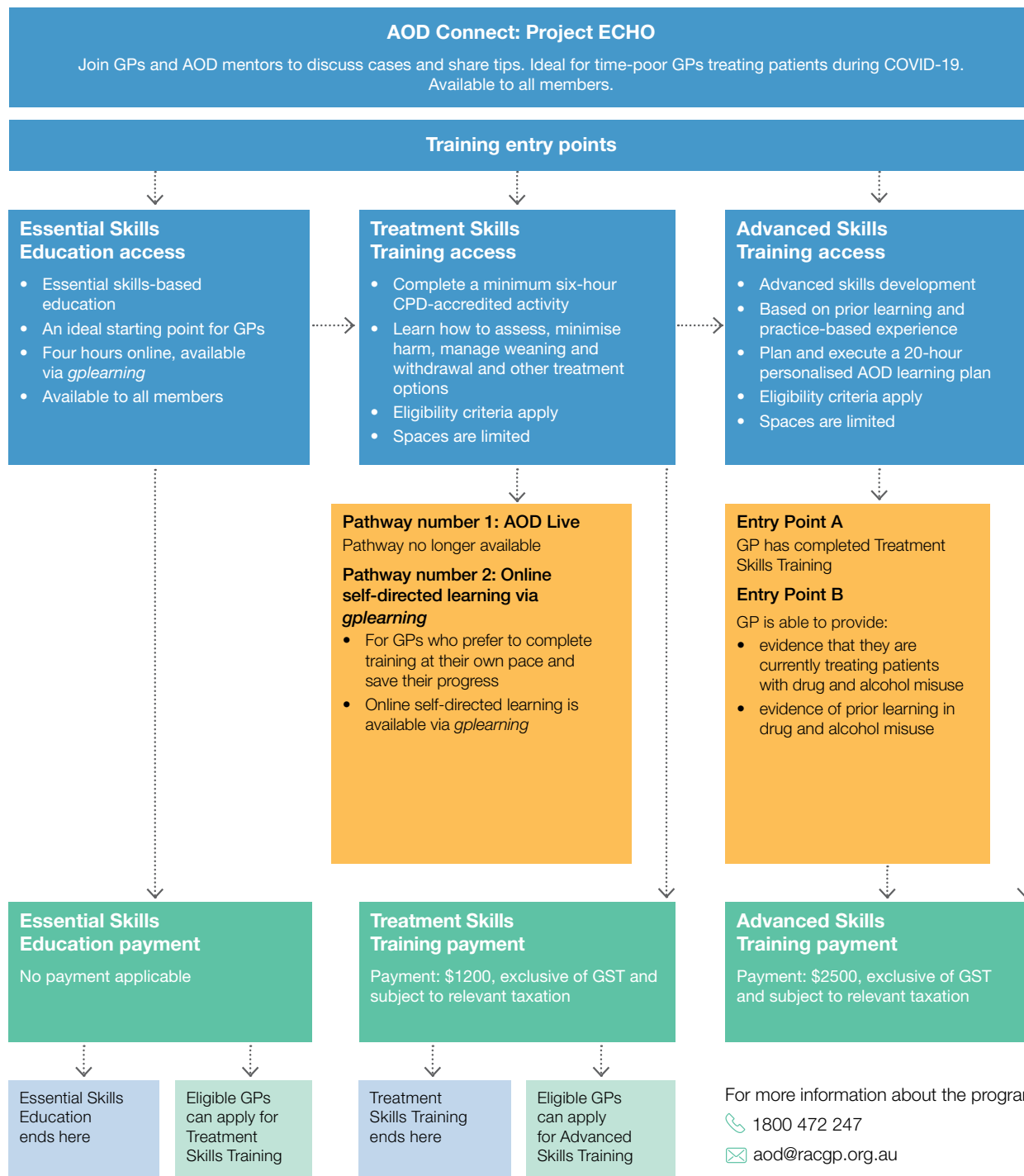
- educational videos
- written and filmed case examples
- self-reflection activities
- links to educational modules and webinars
- links to clinical resources and tools
- links to resources to use with patients.

Program implementation schedule

Key dates

Advanced Skills Training (intake three) applications open	8 November 2021
Advanced Skills Training (intake three) applications close	21 March 2022
AOD resources landing page launched	Early 2022
Higher Risk Groups Training available via <i>gplearning</i>	Early 2022
Treatment Skills Training applications close	31 March 2022
Advanced Skills Training (intake three) concludes	13 June 2022
Treatment Skills Training: Pathway number 2 – Self-directed learning concludes	30 June 2022
AOD Connect: Project ECHO and associated program delivery concludes	September 2022

Appendix A: AOD GP Education Program training pathways and payments



Disclaimer

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