

CURRENT CHALLENGES WITH THE FORENSIC MANAGEMENT OF DETAINEES WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN POLICE CUSTODY

Wednesday 27 November 2024 13:00 – 14:00

Dr Margaret M Stark

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Margaret Stark has been a forensic physician since 1989, a specialist in forensic & legal medicine, mainly working with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), also in Surrey, Sussex, and with British Transport Police. She was the first Medical Director of the Forensic Healthcare Service in London and the Director of the Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit for NSW Police, based in Sydney, from 2011 – 2014.

She is Chair of the Forensic Science Sub-Committee of the FFLM. She is a Past-President of the FFLM 2019-2021 and was the Founding Academic Dean 2016-2011. She was awarded the David Jenkins Professorship in Forensic and Legal Medicine in 2011-12 and was an Adjunct Professor at Sydney University from 2012-2015. She was an Honorary Visiting Professor at Teesside University 2021-2024.

She has been the Rapporteur on the Medical Working Group for the publication: *Detainees with Substance Use Disorders in Police Custody: Guidelines for Clinical Management*, also known as 'The Blue Guidelines', published by the FFLM & Royal College of Psychiatrists for all five editions (2020, 2011, 2006, 2000 & 1994).

She has written extensively in the field and edited the textbook: *Clinical Forensic Medicine – A physician's guide*, now in its 4th edition, as well as contributing over 40 chapters to a variety of publications including the *Encyclopaedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine* and *Forensic and Legal Medicine - Clinical and Pathological Aspects*. She is also a co-author of *Symptoms & Signs of Substance Use*, a fourth edition is soon to be published.

Webinar Information

- The 'Blue Guidelines' - Detainees with substance use disorders (SUD) in police custody. Guidelines for clinical management, have been available for over 20 years but there are still challenges with caring for this group of detainees.
- This webinar will be presented by Dr Margaret Stark who has been the rapporteur for each edition of the 'Blue Guidelines' and given expert evidence on the management of detainees in police custody.
- Prior to the webinar, please submit any questions for the presenter via this [form](#) by Monday 25 November regarding the management of detainees with SUD so that the webinar can be as interactive as possible considering case studies and dilemmas.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain why the management of detainees with SUD in police custody is challenging
2. Summarise the management of alcohol dependency and opiate dependency in the police custody setting
3. Illustrate why polydrug use, including the use of novel psychoactive substances, may potentially have an impact on management

Example case studies will be used.