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abstract

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# Characteristics of Substance Users in Mandatory Inpatient Treatment



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**Aim:** To describe selected characteristics of individuals on whom mandatory inpatient alcohol and drug treatment has been imposed, the course of their treatment, and specific aspects of the approach to such patients. **Design:** Retrospective intensive qualitative study. **Sample:** 33 individuals undergoing mandatory inpatient alcohol/drug treatment in the department of court-ordered mandatory treatment of the Kosmonosy Psychiatric Hospital. **Methods:** Analysis of observation notes, interviews with clients, and medical records. **Findings:** The individuals in mandatory inpatient alcohol/drug treatment may be divided into three basic groups: (a) first offenders showing alcohol abuse with no related asocial lifestyle; (b) re-offenders primarily diagnosed with a personality disorder showing the abuse of psychoactive substances as the related problem, and (c) re-offenders with a prevailing dependency on psychoactive substances showing an asocial lifestyle as the related phenomenon. The individual groups differ in criminal behaviour, comorbidity, patterns of use of psychoactive substances, and their course of treatment. Each group shows a typical course of treatment and a choice of certain therapeutic approaches. **Conclusions:** The outcomes and effectiveness of mandatory inpatient alcohol/drug treatment are currently subject to discussion in the Czech Republic. A more detailed description of the sample of patients found in this type of treatment makes it possible to determine treatment objectives and specific approaches to these individuals which may result in a better relationship between the therapist and the patient and increase the chances of retaining the patient in the system of services for psychoactive substance users and, accordingly, their prospects of achieving abstinence in the long run. The valid-

ity of the categorisation as proposed should be tested in the future by means of a more extensive qualitative study.

**Key words: mandatory treatment - alcohol - drugs**

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