

Measuring social networks in alcohol dependence: a systematic review of assessment instruments

BACKGROUND

- Social network interventions are recommended in alcohol dependence treatment by the NHS, and are utilised by some people outside of treatment in the form of peer support groups, such as AA
- The way in which social networks are conceptualised in the literature varies and can be complex

METHODS

- I systematically searched for social network questionnaires used in alcohol dependence research
- All items from all social network questionnaires used in alcohol dependence research were qualitatively organised and grouped into new constructs and domains

RESULTS

- I regrouped the 123 questions from 8 questionnaires into 14 social network constructs, which were organised into three broader domains

IMPLICATIONS

- Inform my qualitative study- to what extent will the aspects of relationships highlighted by my review be discussed by participants?
- Help researchers to choose the most appropriate questionnaire by mapping the new constructs and domains back to the original questionnaires
- New insights from this qualitative work could lead to the development of a new questionnaire, and also have implications for how services and interventions can support people with alcohol dependence.



- **Structure**
 - e.g. Alcohol use status of the network



- **Function**
 - e.g. Emotional support



- **Satisfaction**
 - e.g. Network quality