

# JAMH ECHO: Complications of Intravenous Drug Use



## The Feel of The Steel: The Lived Experience of Injecting Drug Use

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## Acknowledgment Of Country

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to Elders past and present.

I acknowledge the sorrow of the Stolen Generations and the continuing resilience, pride and strength of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



# Complications of Injecting Drug Use

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BBV's and STI's

Overdose

Vein Damage

Bacterial Infections

Wounds, Skin and Soft  
Tissue Injuries

## Other complications

Poor access to sterile  
injecting equipment

Poor access to  
pharmacotherapy

Public injecting  
increases risks

Other drugs  
e.g. steroids

Previous negative  
experiences



Poorer health  
outcomes

Co-occurring conditions and  
intersectionality

Relationships and  
power dynamics

Poor pain management

Criminal justice system  
involvement

# Dignity of Risk



Informed Risk-taking



Personal Autonomy



Human Rights



Dignity of Risk vs Duty of Care

## Stigma and Discrimination

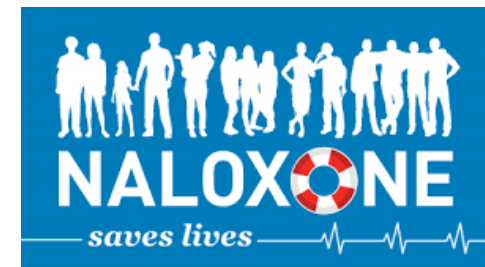
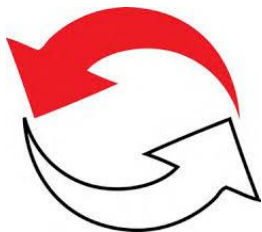
- The World Health Organization has found that illicit drug use is the most stigmatized health condition.
- Stigma and discrimination act as barriers to accessing appropriate health care



“I find that V’s care and treatment by [health service staff] was influenced by drug-use stigma, and that this causally contributed to [their] passing.”

Coroner Simon McGregor,  
Finding Into Death With Inquest

## Healthcare considerations



**Thank you!**

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