



**Dr. (Prof) Pragya Sharma**

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**National Health Systems Resource Centre**

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली संसाधन केंद्र

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Government of India

L No-NHSRC/12-13/Q1/01/LS

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**Subject: Online Lecture Series on Standard Treatment Guidelines**

**40<sup>th</sup> webinar of STG Lecture Series: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Dear Sir/ Madam

Substance abuse is not just an individual issue-it affects families, communities, and public health systems. It leads to serious health problems like cancer, liver disease, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, and developmental disorders in children. It contributes significantly to the global disease burden, with opioids, alcohol, and tobacco leading causes of disability and premature death.

In India, alcohol and tobacco use dominate the burden, while opioid misuse is rising sharply, creating a major public health challenge. Millions are affected, with rising cases of opioid and cannabis use disorders. New psychoactive substances are appearing as emerging challenge requiring surveillance.

Globally, opioid use disorders account for the highest share of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) among drug-related conditions. Alcohol is the **most widely misused substance** in India, with high prevalence among men.

Effective strategies include prevention through awareness program (school and community health programme), harm reduction (needle exchange, opioid substitution therapy), and integrated treatment for mental health and addiction.

To create awareness about the substance abuses and risk mitigation, the **40<sup>th</sup> STG webinar session** will include a talk on **“Substance abuse screening and brief intervention: Alcohol/ Tobacco/ Opioids and linkage to services”** by Dr Manoj Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IHBAS, (IHBAS) and **“Psychiatric disorders in primary care: screening, first-line support, and referral triggers”** by Dr Pratibha Gehlawat, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IHBAS, respectively.

You are requested to disseminate the information to all public healthcare facilities, available clinicians, nursing professionals and program managers in your state may be encouraged to join the webinar.

The registration for the webinar would commence at 14:45 hours on the same day.

Agenda of the session is placed at **Annexure ‘A’**.

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Webex link and QR code to register for the online lecture is given below –

<https://nhsrc-india.webex.com/weblink/register/rf6d82379977167929f4a527457c332e4>



**Date: 18.04.2026**

**Time: 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Pragya Sharma', with the date '15/4/26' written below it.

Dr. (Prof.) Pragya Sharma

To,  
Mission Director, NHM - All States & UTs

Copy to:  
State Nodal Officer-QA, - All States & UTs



**4<sup>th</sup> Series of Interactive  
Online Webinar on  
Standard Treatment Guidelines  
Tentative Agenda**

**NHSRC-DSPRUD STG webinar series- 40<sup>th</sup> Session  
18/04/2026 (Saturday)**

Time		
Time	Topic	Resource Person
02:45 PM to 03:00 PM	Online Registration	
03:00 PM to 03:10 PM	Pre-Training Evaluation	NHSRC & DSPRUD
03:10 PM to 03:15 PM	Welcome & Objective of Lecture Series	<b>Dr Rajiv Pathni</b> , Advisor-QPS, NHSRC
03:15 PM to 03:20 PM	Address by the Chief Guest	<b>Prof. (Dr) Pragya Sharma</b> Executive Director, NHSRC
03:20 PM to 4:05 PM	<b>Session 1:</b> Substance abuse screening and brief intervention: Alcohol/ Tobacco/ Opioids and linkage to services	<b>Dr Manoj Kumar</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IHBAS, New Delhi
04:05 PM to 04:50 PM	<b>Session 2:</b> Psychiatric disorders in primary care: screening, first-line support, and referral triggers	<b>Dr Pratibha Gehlawat</b> Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IHBAS, New Delhi
04:50 PM to 5:10 PM	<b>Session 3:</b> Balancing Benefit, Risk and Misuse of Psychotropics	<b>Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sharma</b> Professor & Head, Department of Neuropsychopharmacology (IHBAS)
05:10 PM to 05:15 PM	Vote of thanks	<b>Dr Sangeeta Sharma</b> DSPRUD
05:15 PM to 05:30 PM	Post Training Evaluation & Closing	NHSRC & DSPRUD