

Special Issue of CJEN – The importance of harm reduction in emergency nursing practice

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Christopher Picard, Heather McLellan, Dawn Peta, Kar Lin Su, Jeanesse Bourgeois, Gabriela Peguero-Rodriguez, Alexandra Lapierre, Matt Douma et Michelle Lalonde

Volume 48, numéro 1, printemps 2025

Harm Reduction Special Edition

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1117502ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.29173/cjen510>

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Éditeur(s)

Pappin Communications
University of Alberta Library

ISSN

2293-3921 (imprimé)

2563-2655 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce document

Picard, C., McLellan, H., Peta, D., Su, K., Bourgeois, J., Peguero-Rodriguez, G., Lapierre, A., Douma, M. & Lalonde, M. (2025). Special Issue of CJEN – The importance of harm reduction in emergency nursing practice / Numéro spécial du CJEN - L'importance de la réduction des méfaits dans la pratique des soins infirmiers d'urgence. *Canadian Journal of Emergency Nursing / Journal canadien des infirmières d'urgence*, 48(1), 4–7. <https://doi.org/10.29173/cjen510>

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Special Issue of CJEN – The importance of harm reduction in emergency nursing practice

Christopher Picard¹, Heather McLellan², Dawn Peta³, Kar Lin Su³, Jeanesse Bourgeois⁴, Gabriela Peguero-Rodriguez⁵, Alexandra Lapierre⁶, Matt Douma³, Michelle Lalonde⁷

¹ University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing

² Mount Royal University, School of Nursing and Midwifery

³ Alberta Health Services

⁴ CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

⁵ Université du Québec en Outaouais, Nursing Department

⁶ Université de Montréal, Faculty of Nursing

⁷ University of Ottawa

Corresponding Editor: Christopher Picard - picard@ualberta.ca

The *Canadian Journal of Emergency Nursing (CJEN)* is dedicating this special issue to exploring the connections between emergency nursing, substance use, and harm reduction. Inviting guest editors and dedicating special editions to specific topics is not new or novel - CJEN has partnered with other organizations; hosted conference abstracts (McLane and Lang, 2020; McLane & Lang, 2021; Fisher et al. 2022; Fisher et al., 2023); co-published statements from the CIHR (Lau, 2021); and has worked closely with the Canadian Forensic Nurses Association (Doyle, 2013; Early, 2014; Forensic Nurses Society of Canada, 2014). While inviting guest editors and curating special issues on specific topics is a well-established practice for CJEN, this issue marks a first for CJEN by unifying the entire edition under a single theme: substance use and harm reduction.

CJEN has a proud history of exploring the impacts of substance use on nurses, their workplaces, and substance-related patient characteristics (Rush, 2005). The interplay between mental health and substance use (Hilton et al., 2023), and the effects of substance use at a population level (Patterson & Douma, 2020;

Picard et al., 2024) also reflect previously published articles. CJEN has a strong history of amplifying voices in harm reduction, examining how these practices are implemented (Horvath & Carter, 2024; Low, 2020), their effects on nurses (Mercier et al., 2023), their impact on patient outcomes (Whitman et al., 2020) and system burdens (Vorobeichik et al., 2022).

Substance use and harm reduction have a significant impact on the daily operations of our emergency departments. As our healthcare system continues to grapple with the opioid crisis and other substance-related challenges, harm reduction strategies play a crucial role in delivering comprehensive care while mitigating adverse health impacts related to substance use. This special edition features original research articles that shed light on how these pressing issues are impacting nurses, patients, and emergency department teams across Canada. The articles delve into theory, impressions, and efforts to address these rising challenges. To ensure a well-rounded perspective, we have collaborated with our harm reduction nursing counterparts in presenting this edition. We hope you enjoy this special edition!

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Numéro spécial du CJEN - L'importance de la réduction des méfaits dans la pratique des soins infirmiers d'urgence

Christopher Picard¹, Heather McLellan², Dawn Peta³, Kar Lin Su³, Jeanesse Bourgeois⁴, Gabriela Peguero-Rodriguez⁵, Alexandra Lapierre⁶, Matt Douma³, Michelle Lalonde⁷

¹ University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing

² Mount Royal University, School of Nursing and Midwifery

³ Alberta Health Services

⁴ CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

⁵ Université du Québec en Outaouais, Département des sciences infirmières

⁶ Université de Montréal, Faculté des sciences infirmières

⁷ University of Ottawa

Éditeur correspondant – Christopher Picard - picard@ualberta.ca

Le *Journal canadien des infirmières d'urgence* (*Canadian Journal of Emergency Nursing* [CJEN]) consacre ce numéro spécial à l'exploration des liens entre les soins infirmiers d'urgence, l'usage de substances et la réduction des méfaits. Faire appel à des éditeurs invités et consacrer des éditions à des sujets spécifiques n'est ni nouveau ni inédit - CJEN a collaboré avec d'autres organisations, accueilli des résumés de conférences (McLane et Lang, 2020 ; McLane & Lang, 2021 ; Fisher et al. 2022 ; Fisher et al., 2023), co-publié des déclarations du CIHR (Lau, 2021) et travaillé en étroite collaboration avec l'Association des infirmières médico-légales du Canada (Doyle, 2013 ; Early, 2014 ; Forensic Nurses Society of Canada, 2014). Bien que faire appel à des éditeurs invités et organiser des numéros spéciaux sur des sujets spécifiques soit une pratique bien établie pour le CJEN, ce numéro marque une première en unifiant l'intégralité de l'édition sous un seul thème : l'usage de substances et la réduction des méfaits.

Le CJEN a une longue histoire d'exploration des impacts de l'usage de substances sur les infirmières, leurs lieux de travail et les caractéristiques des patients liées à ces substances (Rush, 2005). L'interaction entre la santé mentale et l'usage de substances (Hilton et al., 2023), ainsi que les effets de l'usage de substances à l'échelle de la population (Patterson & Douma, 2020 ; Picard

et al., 2024) reflètent également des articles publiés précédemment. Le CJEN a une forte tradition de donner la parole à la réduction des méfaits, en examinant comment ces pratiques sont mises en œuvre (Horvath & Carter, 2024 ; Low, 2020), leurs effets sur les infirmières (Mercier et al., 2023), leur impact sur les résultats des patients (Whitman et al., 2020) ainsi que sur la charge des systèmes de santé (Vorobeichik et al., 2022).

L'usage de substances et la réduction des méfaits ont un impact significatif sur les opérations quotidiennes de nos départements d'urgence. Alors que notre système de santé continue de lutter contre la crise des opioïdes et d'autres défis liés aux substances, les stratégies de réduction des méfaits jouent un rôle crucial dans la prestation de soins complets tout en atténuant les effets négatifs liés à l'usage de substances. Ce numéro spécial présente des articles de recherche originaux qui mettent en lumière comment ces problèmes pressants affectent les infirmières, les patients et les équipes des départements d'urgence à travers le Canada. Les articles abordent la théorie, les perceptions et les efforts pour répondre à ces défis croissants. Afin d'assurer une perspective bien équilibrée, nous avons collaboré avec nos homologues en soins infirmiers de réduction des méfaits pour présenter ce numéro. Nous espérons que vous apprécierez cette édition spéciale !

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