Drug ID 2 Case Studies

Jay

In Drug ID 1 you were introduced to Jay, a 23 year old Vietnamese-Australian who is addicted to heroin. Her story is repeated here together with extra background information to assist you in this exercise.

Jay is a 23 year old Vietnamese-Australian who has had to drop out of university. She lives at home in a 'leafy' middle class suburb with her mother who is a business woman. Jay's mother Mary, tells you that she believes Jay has been 'smoking on a regular basis since she was 16'. Her mother has stopped paying Jay's credit card account owing to the ever increasing balance. Jay has also recently been charged with three shoplifting offences.

Mary does not see much of Jay, and has no idea of who Jay's friends are or where Jay goes during the day and half the night. Mary would like your guidance, as she cannot talk to Jay. When Mary tries to discuss her concerns Jay becomes abusive and on one occasion threw an empty whisky bottle at her mother.

Her healthy, active, well dressed and polite daughter does not seem to exist anymore. Jay confides in her mother that she is a heroin user.

Jay's mother has convinced her daughter to come to your office and talk to you about Jay's heroin dependence.

During discussions with Jay she tells you that she uses with her boyfriend, shares injection equipment with him but not other people. She also states that she has unprotected sex with her boyfriend.

While discussing options open to Jay she appears concerned about the treatment for her dependence and going through withdrawal. In particular she is concerned that she may not be able to cope withdrawal process.

- Consider the issues associated with Jay's dependence and make a list of the information you should give Jay. Discuss the issues you have identified and the information you will give Jay with you tutor.

- Consider what guidance Jay should receive for going through the withdrawal process. Make a list of the information you would give Jay and discuss this with your tutor.