



# **Substance Use Screening and Referral Skills Training Course**

3 – 7 October 2027  
Zanzibar



## Substance Use Screening and Referral Skills Training Course

**Ref:** 1539\_213704 **Date:** 3 – 7 October 2027 **Location:** Zanzibar **Fees:** 5500 Euro

### Overview

Substance use screening and referral skills form a one-week foundation course for healthcare, community health and social-care personnel who need a substance-use screening and referral pathway. The course addresses missed risk signals through non-stigmatizing communication, ASSIST screening, brief intervention, harm reduction, withdrawal warning signs, safeguarding and recovery-oriented care coordination. Agile Leaders Training Center places substance use screening and referral within safe non-specialist practice.

### Who Should Attend

- Teams responsible for patient contact and early recognition of substance-use concerns
- Personnel responsible for community outreach and health-support conversations
- Functions responsible for social-care assessment and safeguarding
- Teams responsible for care coordination and referral follow-up
- Managers responsible for service pathways and staff role boundaries

The course assumes participants already interact with people who may have substance-use concerns and leaves out independent diagnosis, prescribing, psychotherapy and specialist addiction treatment.

### Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and services that identify concerns, provide an initial response or coordinate access to further care.

- Hospitals and primary healthcare services
- Community health and outreach services
- Social care and safeguarding functions
- Employee health and occupational support services
- Nonprofit and humanitarian support organizations
- Care coordination and patient-navigation teams

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:



- Apply non-stigmatizing language and role-boundary principles
- Use ASSIST screening and structured risk prompts
- Analyze intoxication, withdrawal and safeguarding warning signs
- Build a brief-intervention and referral conversation
- Prioritize harm-reduction, escalation and care-coordination actions
- Evaluate documentation, follow-up and relapse-support pathways

## **Course Agenda**

### **Day 1: Substance-Use Recognition and Safe Practice**

- Substance-Use Risk and Protective-Factor Map
- Non-Stigmatizing Communication Language Guide
- Professional Role Boundary Matrix
- Consent Privacy and Information-Sharing Checklist
- Recovery-Oriented Practice Principles Map

### **Day 2: Screening and Risk Identification**

- WHO ASSIST Screening Workflow
- AUDIT Alcohol Screening Decision Guide
- Structured Substance-Use Conversation Template
- Intoxication and Withdrawal Warning-Sign Checklist
- Immediate Risk and Safeguarding Triage Matrix

### **Day 3: Brief Response and Harm Reduction**

- SBIRT Brief-Intervention Pathway
- Motivational Communication Question Framework
- Readiness and Ambivalence Conversation Map
- Harm-Reduction Action Planning Sheet
- Urgent Escalation and Emergency Response Guide

### **Day 4: Referral and Coordinated Support**

- Stepped Referral Pathway Design
- Warm Handoff Communication Template
- Co-Occurring Needs Coordination Map
- Follow-Up and Engagement Tracking Log
- Relapse-Support and Recovery Resource Plan



## **Day 5: Screening and Referral Practice**

- Suggested Exercise: Non-Stigmatizing First Conversation
- Suggested Exercise: ASSIST Screening and Risk Review
- Suggested Exercise: Brief Intervention and Harm-Reduction Plan
- Suggested Exercise: Safeguarding Escalation and Warm Handoff
- Capstone Exercise: Substance-Use Screening and Referral Pathway

## **Practical Exercises**

The course uses suggested activities based on healthcare, community outreach and social-care situations.

- Suggested activity: conduct a role-bound screening conversation and record the identified risks.
- Suggested activity: distinguish routine referral from urgent withdrawal or safeguarding escalation.
- Suggested activity: prepare a brief intervention, harm-reduction action and warm handoff.
- Suggested activity: audit a referral record for consent, follow-up and continuity gaps.

## **FAQs**

### **Who does the substance use screening and referral course suit, and what does it assume?**

The course suits non-specialist health and social-care personnel who encounter substance-use concerns and assumes they already hold a role involving patient, service-user or community contact.

### **How does substance use screening and referral differ from specialist addiction treatment training?**

Substance use screening and referral focuses on recognition, structured screening, brief response, harm reduction and connection to qualified services rather than diagnosis, prescribing, psychotherapy or specialist treatment.

### **What is the purpose of substance-use screening in non-specialist services?**

Substance-use screening supports early identification of risk, a proportionate initial response and timely referral while keeping decisions within the participant's professional role.

### **When should substance-use concerns be escalated urgently?**

Urgent escalation applies when warning signs indicate immediate medical risk, severe withdrawal, danger to self or others, safeguarding concerns or needs beyond the staff member's competence.



## **How does a warm referral support addiction recovery pathways?**

A warm referral uses agreed information sharing, direct service connection and planned follow-up to reduce gaps between identification and continued support.

## **Conclusion**

Participants leave with a Substance-Use Screening and Referral Pathway containing communication prompts, screening tools, risk triage, brief-intervention steps, escalation criteria and follow-up records. The pathway makes non-specialist decisions and handoffs more consistent. It supports coordination across healthcare, community and social-care services without extending staff beyond their roles.