

WEBINAR

Navigating Xylazine Wound Care: Strategies for Understanding, Prevention, and Healing

April 30, 2024

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ET

Details

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Jason Bienert, RN, CWCN Wound Care Nurse

Jason Bienert is a wound care nurse working in Maryland, providing empathic and compassionate low-barrier healthcare to people who use drugs. He has treated hundreds of wounds related to xylazine over the last four years. Pulling together ten-plus years of critical care, emergency, and advanced hospital-based wound care, Jason led the successful development and implementation of a novel wound care program within a peer-led, nonprofit harm reduction organization in rural Maryland. He is now employed by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health as a Sr. Research Nurse working on multiple xylazine projects.

Xylazine is a tranquilizer intended for veterinary use that has increasingly been linked to overdose-related deaths across the U.S. Although it has been in use for nearly a decade, there has been an alarming increase in fentanyl mixed with xylazine, with the largest increases having been observed in southern states, according to the CDC. In addition to the increased risk of overdose, xylazine use can also lead to the development of severe wounds and skin infections.

This webinar will focus on understanding the causes and progression of wounds related to xylazine exposure and the role behavioral health professionals can play in the prevention, treatment, and reduction of the wounds. Additionally, participants will gain insight into the physiological effects, mechanisms of injury, and best practices in wound care associated with xylazine exposure.



Objectives

1. Identify the initial signs of xylazine-related wounds and understand their progression.
2. Equip healthcare professionals with talking points to initiate conversations with people who use drugs to discuss the presence of xylazine before using drug-checking supplies.
3. Discuss the complications people with open wounds have when seeking substance use treatment whether in the hospital or in a treatment/ detox facility.

CEs are pending for counseling, social work, addiction/prevention, and psychology/school psychology.

Expert Presenter