Harmful alcohol use is an important public health problem in our country. Alcohol consumption produces a series of changes in brain neurotransmitters and neurons that make the addictive habit maintain in time. We should distinguish between risk consumption, harmful use and dependence through questionnaires. The final diagnosis of dependence can be set following Diagnosis Criteria from ICD-10 or DSM-IV. Patients with alcohol dependence should be treated in specialized units. Nurses contribute to presentation, treatment and detection of this disorder. It should be pointed out that Mental Health Nurses have a noted role in the treatment of alcohol dependence in specialized centers where, following the methodology of Nursing Process, they make an exhaustive monitoring of these patients with alcohol dependence and they contribute to the treatment of this common addiction.

alcohol, dependence, SBIRT, nurse, neurobiology