

# Performance and image enhancing drug use among women: Investigating the role support personnel have in facilitating or preventing use

## Tier 2

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Performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs) are substances used to enhance body image and improve athletic performance. Most of the literature exploring PIED use has focused on anabolic steroid use in men. There is a growing consensus that the use of PIEDs among women is increasing, and that support personnel such as coaches have an oversized influence on women's decisions to use or avoid PIEDs. Given the increasing professionalization of women's sport, and the risks and harms connected to women's PIED use, the role that support personnel have in facilitating or preventing the use of PIEDs among women warrants further investigation. Utilising a qualitative approach, and informed by a co-design process with national anti-doping and sporting organisations, this multisite project seeks to interview women in three countries (Australia, United Kingdom, and Sweden) to 1) investigate the role of support personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, partners) in facilitating or preventing PIED use, and 2) to understand the broader psycho-socio-cultural factors that contribute to facilitating or preventing PIED use among female athletes. Investigating when, why, and how women choose to use or avoid PIEDs this project will gain important insights on women's lived experiences with PIEDs. Further it will inform anti-doping education and other prevention initiatives that can be adopted by national anti-doping organisations as well as professional and non-professional bodies.