

SFHAF1

Carry out screening and referral assessment in a substance misuse setting



Overview

This standard is about recognising substance misuse problems and referring individuals to a substance misuse or other service appropriate to their immediate needs. It includes the assessment of risk to the individual and others, particularly the children of substance users.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 regularly update your knowledge about the range of substances which may be misused and the possible indications of substance misuse
- P2 remain constantly alert to possible indications of substance misuse by those with whom you come into contact
- P3 investigate situations sufficiently to allow you to make a reasonable judgement about whether individuals are misusing substances
- P4 obtain specialist assistance where you are unable to make a reasonable judgement about whether individuals are misusing substances
- P5 respond promptly to individuals presenting for substance misuse services in order to maintain their motivation and seize the opportunity for intervention
- P6 assess any immediate risk to the individual and to others which may result from substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
- P7 take prompt action appropriate to your assessment of risk in line with legal and organisational requirements
- P8 record situations and actions taken in line with organisational requirements
- P9 provide information about situations and actions taken only to those entitled to have it
- P10 have access to up to date and accurate information on services in your locality
- P11 consider possible alternative services according to the needs of the individual
- P12 present the possibility of referral to the individual in a positive manner and review the advantages and disadvantages with them
- P13 refer the individual to a service with the required degree of urgency
- P14 make referrals in line with local protocols and the eligibility criteria for accessing services
- P15 establish the availability, accessibility and any cost of services to the individual prior to confirming the referral
- P16 plan arrangements for the referral with the individual and facilitate their contact with the service
- P17 agree with the individual the information to be passed to the service
- P18 provide the service with complete and accurate information about the situation
- P19 obtain feedback from the service following the referral to evaluate and refine referral practices
- P20 provide continuing support to individuals who do not want to be referred

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 organisational requirements and policies relevant to risk assessments
- K2 the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so
- K3 the importance of providing full and accurate information, and how to do so
- K4 the principle of confidentiality: what information may be given to whom
- K5 how to present information to individuals in a positive manner
- K6 the importance of monitoring the situation regarding an individual's misuse of substances, and how to do so
- K7 how to assess the risk to individuals and to others from their substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
- K8 the risks to children of substance users, and how to assess these risks
- K9 the importance of regularly reviewing risk assessments
- K10 the range of different substances and their effects
- K11 the range of different indications of substance misuse: physical, behavioural and information provided by the individual or from other sources
- K12 ways of keeping your knowledge about substances and indications of substance misuse up to date
- K13 how to investigate situations in order to make a reasonable judgement about substance misuse
- K14 substance misuse specialists, and procedures for referring individuals to them
- K15 the range of actions you can take when individuals may be misusing substances, and how to decide what action is appropriate
- K16 sources of information on substance misuse services and treatment interventions
- K17 the eligibility criteria for accessing services in your locality
- K18 how to plan and facilitate referrals to substance misuse services
- K19 how to assess the required degree of urgency when referring individuals to services

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet people's health and wellbeing needs

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