

SFHAF2

Carry out assessment to identify and prioritise needs in a substance misuse setting



Overview

This standard is about referral of individuals with less complex needs directly to less structured substance misuse services (such as drop-in advice services). It is also about identifying when an individual has more complex needs which require referral to a comprehensive substance misuse assessment. It includes:

1. assessment of the individual's substance misuse problem and their understanding of services available
2. assessment of the need for referral to substance misuse services or to a comprehensive substance misuse assessment
3. making referral to a substance misuse service or comprehensive substance misuse assessment

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 conduct the assessment of the individual promptly to maintain the individual's motivation and seize the opportunity to engage them in treatment
- P2 conduct the assessment in line with locally agreed criteria and using standardised documentation
- P3 obtain information from the individual and if applicable, from the referring agency, in line with protocols
- P4 take account of historical factors where disclosed by the individual as well as presenting factors
- P5 assess the individual's understanding of services available and readiness to engage in a treatment programme
- P6 deal with challenging, abusive, aggressive or chaotic behaviour
- P7 assess any risk to the individual which may result from substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
- P8 encourage the individual to ask questions, seek advice and express any concerns
- P9 seek support from the appropriate person as soon as possible when there are any problems with the assessment
- P10 record accurate, legible and complete details of the assessment, agreements reached with the individual and the resulting actions to be taken.
- P11 have access to up to date and accurate information on services within your locality
- P12 present the possible interventions to the individual in a positive manner and review the advantages and disadvantages with them
- P13 present the possible interventions to the individual in a manner, level and pace appropriate to them
- P14 agree an appropriate course of action with the individual according to the intensity of intervention required
- P15 give the individual appropriate support to check any information on the agreed intervention before it is finalised
- P16 record accurate, legible and complete details of the assessment, agreements reached with the individual and the resulting actions to be taken
- P17 ensure the outcomes of the assessment and the agreements reached achieve the best balance between the interests of the individual, any inherent risks and the legal duty of care
- P18 justify the choice of intervention according to locally agreed criteria
- P19 discuss assessments with other members of the substance misuse

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- service team in order to ensure consistency of approach
- P20 provide continuing support to individuals who do not want to be referred
- P21 make referrals in line with local protocols and the eligibility criteria for accessing services
- P22 refer the individual to the appropriate service with the required degree of urgency
- P23 share information obtained during the assessment with services to which the individual is referred according to agreed protocols
- P24 plan arrangements for the referral with the individual and facilitate their contact with the service
- P25 agree with the individual the information to be passed to the service
- P26 obtain feedback from the service to evaluate and refine referral practices following the referral
- P27 record details of the assessment and referral for reporting and evaluation purposes

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements and policies requirements relevant to the functions being carried out
- K2 how to obtain information from individuals and other agencies in line with protocol
- K3 show to pass information obtained during an assessment to another agency in line with local protocols
- K4 how to involve an individual in the assessment of their needs
- K5 how to assess an individual's understanding of services available and readiness to engage in a treatment programme
- K6 how to assess the required degree of urgency when referring individuals to services
- K7 how to deal with challenging, abusive, aggressive or chaotic behaviour
- K8 how to assess individuals who are intoxicated
- K9 who can provide support when there are any problems with the assessment
- K10 how to achieve consistency in assessments with other workers in your organisation
- K11 the importance of adhering to locally agreed criteria and documentation when carrying out assessments
- K12 how to involve adults with parental responsibility in the assessment and referral of children and young people
- K13 how to take account of a child or young persons age and maturity when involving them in assessment
- K14 the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so
- K15 the principle of confidentiality: what information may be given to whom
- K16 how to present information in a manner, level and pace appropriate to the individual
- K17 the importance of monitoring the situation regarding an individual's misuse of substances, and how to do so
- K18 how to assess the risk to individuals and to others from their substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
- K19 the importance of regularly reviewing risk assessments
- K20 the range of different substances and their effects
- K21 the range of different indications of substance misuse: physical, behavioural and information provided by the individual or from other sources
- K22 ways of keeping your knowledge about substances and indications of substance misuse up to date
- K23 how to understand the jargon used by substance misusers in your

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locality

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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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