
Overview

This standard covers establishing the extent and type of individuals' injecting behaviour, providing harm reduction advice, providing equipment to reduce drug related harm, providing injecting equipment and facilitating the safe disposal of used equipment. You also need to maintain records of the supply and safe disposal of injecting and other relevant equipment in order to monitor and evaluate the service. This standard relates to substances which may include prescription and over-the-counter medicines, controlled or currently legal drugs, and new psychoactive substances. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

**Performance
criteria**

- You must be able to:
- P1 establish whether the individual is injecting and the frequency of injecting, nature of the substance and environment in which they are injecting
 - P2 establish whether a needle exchange service can be provided for the individual in line with local policy
 - P3 carry out a basic health assessment with the individual concerning the impact of their substance use
 - P4 provide advice on safe or safer injecting techniques and sites
 - P5 provide relevant and timely advice on harm reduction, risk of infection, primary health and safer sex
 - P6 provide advice and resources for safe storage and disposal of needles and other relevant equipment
 - P7 refer individuals to other services according to identified need
 - P8 liaise with providers of other services in line with policies and protocols
 - P9 check that adequate stocks of equipment are maintained
 - P10 check that any injecting and other relevant equipment is stored safely and securely
 - P11 dispense equipment to individuals in line with the assessment of their needs
 - P12 demonstrate safe handling of dispensed equipment
 - P13 carry out the exchange process discreetly and give out equipment in a dispensing bag to maintain confidentiality
 - P14 carry out correct practices for dealing with returned equipment
 - P15 check that sharps bins are correctly assembled and never over-filled
 - P16 adhere to your organisations' needle and equipment exchange policies and procedures
 - P17 deal with any spillages and discarded needles and syringes using the appropriate materials
 - P18 maintain records of equipment supply and exchange in line with organisational procedures
 - P19 maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to individuals using the exchange scheme

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal, organisational and policy requirements relevant to your role and the activities being carried out
- K2 policy guidelines and legislation for needle exchange, including exchange for under-16s
- K3 health and safety legislation relevant to transportation and storage of used injecting equipment
- K4 the principle of confidentiality and the implications for your practice
- K5 your responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing of individuals
- K6 local systems, procedures and protocols for safeguarding children and young people
- K7 how to recognise the signs of injury, abuse or neglect in the individual and how to raise concerns with the appropriate person or agency
- K8 how age, gender, cultural and social background, including the choice of substance being used can affect the working relationship
- K9 legal obligations and local policies regarding service provision for children and young people
- K10 organisational policies and procedures for supply and exchange of injecting and other relevant equipment
- K11 how to adapt communication styles in ways which meet the individual's needs, strengths and capabilities
- K12 how to carry out a basic health assessment and respond appropriately
- K13 potential benefits of brief interventions and how to deliver them in this environment
- K14 complaints and appeals procedures which individuals can utilise
- K15 the range of substance use services offered by your organisation and other organisations, including peer support
- K16 the range of injecting equipment used by individuals who inject substances
- K17 the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so
- K18 the range of possible behaviours from substance users, and how to manage these
- K19 the risks and implications associated with various methods of substance use

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- K20 how to recognise and deal with immediate risk of danger to individuals who have used substances
 - K21 the harm reduction advice appropriate to all injecting substance use
 - K22 the health risks associated with used needles and other equipment
 - K23 how to dispose of needles and other relevant equipment safely
 - K24 potential blood borne viruses and routes of transmission
 - K25 the importance of testing for blood borne viruses and the availability of treatment
 - K26 how to provide health advice and support to users of the service
 - K27 how to provide safe sex and contraception advice to individuals
 - K28 what to do in the event of a needle stick injury occurring
 - K29 what constitutes adequate stocks of injecting and other relevant equipment for the individual substance user
 - K30 how to ensure your personal health and safety
 - K31 how to recognise if services are not meeting an individual's needs
 - K32 the principles of equality, diversity and anti-discriminatory practice and how they are applied

SFHAH3

Supply injecting and other relevant equipment to individuals who use substances and facilitate safe disposal



Additional information

External Links

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

Dimension: HWB4 Enablement to address health and wellbeing needs

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