

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

Overview

This standard is about supplying injecting and other relevant equipment to young people who use substances as part of an overall plan of care for the young person.

This standard should be undertaken as part of a full assessment (where possible), and in line with the current legal framework for working with young people. As part of this standard, the assessment needs to consider factors of age, maturity of the young person and the degree of seriousness of drug use. You will also need to take into consideration whether the young person is able to give their consent, without the consent of those with legal responsibility for their wellbeing. 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:

1. communicate with the young person in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding, developmental capacity and preferences
2. identify any risks that the young person may be facing and take the appropriate action
3. respect the young person's privacy, confidentiality, rights and wishes, taking into account age and level of understanding
4. clarify and confirm with the young person the information which may need to be shared with others within the boundaries of confidentiality
5. establish whether the young person is injecting and the frequency of injecting, nature of the substance, who they are injecting with and environment in which they are injecting
6. establish whether a needle exchange service can be provided for the young person in line with local safeguarding policy
7. carry out a health assessment with the young person concerning the impact of their substance use
8. provide advice on safe or safer injecting techniques and sites
9. provide relevant and timely advice on the sources of support available, harm reduction, risk of infection, primary health and safer sex
10. provide advice and resources for safe storage and disposal of needles and other relevant equipment
11. refer the young person to other services according to identified need
12. liaise with providers of other services in line with policies and protocols
13. check that any injecting and other relevant equipment is stored safely and securely
14. dispense equipment to individuals in line with the assessment of their needs
15. demonstrate the safe handling of dispensed equipment
16. carry out the exchange process discreetly and give out equipment in a dispensing bag to maintain confidentiality
17. carry out correct practices for dealing with returned equipment
18. check that sharps bins are correctly assembled and never over-filled
19. adhere to your organisations' needle and equipment exchange policies and procedures
20. deal with any spillages and discarded needles and syringes using the appropriate materials
21. make arrangements for the young person's review in line with their case/care plan, taking into account any existing case/care plans where these may be in place
22. maintain records that are clear, comprehensive, and accurate, and maintain

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the security and confidentiality of information

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. legal, organisational and policy requirements relevant to your role and the activities being carried out
2. policy guidelines and legislation for needle exchange, including exchange for under-16s
3. health and safety legislation relevant to transportation and storage of used injecting equipment
4. the ethical issues, legal requirements and good practice guidelines on consent, including capacity issues and consent for young people
5. the principle of confidentiality and the implications for your practice
6. your responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing of individuals
7. the sources of support for young people who are using substances and those involved in their care, and how to access these
8. how to recognise and respond to the signs of injury, abuse or neglect and your responsibility in relation to raising concerns with the appropriate person or agency
9. local systems, procedures and protocols for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults
10. how age, gender, cultural and social background, including the choice of substance being used can affect the working relationship
11. how to engage with and communicate effectively with young people, and those involved in their care
12. the need for communication to be modified for different contexts and cultures, including the age, vulnerability, understanding, developmental capacity and communication needs and preferences of the young person and those involved in their care
13. the ways in which young people communicate non-verbally and through behaviour, as well as through language, and how different forms of behaviour can be interpreted
14. the rights of young people to make decisions for themselves and to take risks in the context of their own lives, taking into account issues of capacity and your professional responsibility including duty of care
15. how to carry out a health assessment with the young person and a chaperone if required, and take appropriate action following the assessment
16. how to assess if the young person is under the influence of substances and how this impacts the assessment of capacity and ability to consent which could affect the action taken
17. the range of substance use services offered by your organisation and other

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- organisations, including peer support
18. the range of injecting equipment used by individuals who inject substances
 19. the risks and implications associated with various methods of substance use
 20. how to recognise and deal with immediate risk of danger to young people who have used substances
 21. how to give age appropriate harm reduction advice as part of the wider care plan for young people who are injecting substances
 22. the health risks associated with used needles and other equipment
 23. how to dispose of needles and other relevant equipment safely
 24. potential blood borne viruses and routes of transmission
 25. the importance of testing for blood borne viruses and the availability of treatment
 26. how to provide health advice and support to users of the service
 27. how to provide safe sex and contraception advice to young people
 28. what to do in the event of a needle stick injury occurring
 29. what constitutes appropriate stocks of injecting and other relevant equipment for the individual substance user
 30. how to ensure your personal health and safety
 31. how to recognise if services are not meeting the young person's needs
 32. the principles of equality, diversity and anti-discriminatory practice and how they are applied
 33. the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so in line with organisational requirements

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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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