

BIAN - Screening and Assessment

Protocol Outcomes

1. People with problematic drug use identified
2. Overview of main issues for service user outlined
3. Services currently and previously engaged with service user are identified
4. Necessity for comprehensive assessment or case management is identified
5. Service user referred or stays in current service
6. Keyworker assigned
7. Overview of wider needs for service user identified through comprehensive assessment

Table 1.2 When to use particular assessment/screening forms

Type of Assessment	Screening	Intake	NDTRS (Initial)	Comprehensive
Relevant Tier/Type of Services	Tier 1- Generic services that are not drug specific e.g. Hospitals	Tier 2-4 services e.g. addiction specific	Tier 2 upwards e.g. First point of contact in addiction services	Tier 2 upwards
Purpose/When to Use	To ascertain if there is a problematic drug use issue	To determine the appropriateness of a service to meet the clients needs. In addition, it should provide a short history for the purpose of identifying immediate needs and level of urgency. Need for further assessment and baseline of key issues also ascertained.	To determine the seriousness and urgency of the drug/alcohol problem. The nature and extent of the use including motivation to engage with treatment & rehabilitation services and any immediate risk factors should be identified. Also identifies if a comprehensive assessment is necessary depending on complexity.	To identify the service users needs and framework that will be required for a care plan. It will also identify services that will and should be involved in a shared care plan. Should identify where specific assessments ⁶ are required by professional such as mental health etc.

Key Steps

Step 1: Before starting, the workers⁷ undertaking the assessment should ensure the service user has an understanding of the assessment process and provide the service user

with the *Service User Information Leaflet*. In addition, the assessment should be service user led.

Step 2: The worker undertaking the assessment should also explain matters relating to confidentiality. The Interagency Confidentiality Statement should then be completed.

Note: Individual agencies are responsible for the data collected by them (as each agency would be considered a separate Data Controller under the Data Protection Acts). In addition, a separate Interagency Confidentiality Statement should be completed by each agency working with the service user.

Step 3: The NDTRS Form (initial assessment) should be completed and it should help determine the most appropriate service(s) or support(s) to meet the service user's presenting needs. Referral should be made to the most appropriate service.

Step 4: The worker completing the NDTRS form should seek written consent to share information that the service user has provided for the purposes of assessment, referral or making contact with other services and the Interagency Consent for Release of Information Form should be completed. If a service user wishes to withdraw their consent at any time, then the Withdrawal of Consent Form should be completed.

Step 5: The worker undertaking the assessment should identify:

- What services, if any, the service user is already linked to.
- If a Case Manager has been assigned and
- If an Interagency Care Plan has been developed.

Step 6: If a Case Manager or Interagency Care Plan is already in place, then the worker should feed into this process. If this is not in place and other agencies are involved, then an Interagency Care Plan should be developed and a Case Manager agreed.

Step 7: As the service user continues to engage, a comprehensive assessment should be undertaken. If a care plan is not in place, an individual care plan should be developed which also identifies referrals to other relevant services (as needed), with a view to developing an Interagency Care Plan.

Step 8: Any Interagency Care Plan Meeting at this stage should be carried out in line with Protocol 2: Developing and Reviewing the Interagency Care Plan.

Step 9: All service users should be offered support and follow up if any of the questions or issues raised throughout the assessment have caused upset or concern.