

Cork Kerry - Screening and Assessment Protocol

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

When to use particular assessment/screening forms

| Type of Assessment | Screening | Initial (NDTRS) ¹ | Comprehensive |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Type of Services | Generic services that are not drug specific e.g. Hospitals | All staff involved in case management training can carry out initial assessment which contains the minimum domains outlined by NDRIC. SAASI is included as part of initial. ² Generally first point of contact in addiction services. | All staff involved in case management training can carry out a comprehensive assessment which contains the minimum domains as outlined by NDRIC. |
| Purpose/When to Use | To ascertain if there is a problematic drug use issue | 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. |

¹ The NDTRS form should be sent to the HRB on a monthly basis as per the NDTRS Training Protocol Part II (2012: 4). The NDTRS provides the basis of an initial assessment as per NDRIC guidelines and a sample form can be found at http://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/Staging/Documents/In_House_Research_Info_Systems/ADRU/NDTRS/NDTRS_2012_form.pdf

² Not all staff on pilot are trained in SAASI. If SAASI cannot be completed by worker it should not prevent service user from progressing through initial and onto comprehensive assessment.

Screening

Service users attending: A&E, Gardai, Probation, etc can be screened using SAOR. If they require further support with drug and alcohol issues they will be referred onto an alcohol or drug service.

Initial Assessment.

Key Steps:

Step 1: Alcohol and drug services will undertake an initial assessment with all new referrals and self referrals that do not already have a care plan/ case manager in place. This will be done within the first two weeks of the service user making contact with the service. The purpose of the initial assessment is to ensure the individual is referred to the correct service and to ascertain whether they need a comprehensive assessment and a case manager.

Step 2: If the initial assessment highlights the need for two or more services to support the individual then the service user will be offered case management and a comprehensive assessment will be undertaken.

Comprehensive Assessment.

Step 1: Prior to the comprehensive assessment being undertaken the service user will be informed of the individual service's confidentiality policy and asked to sign a consent to share information form. The worker will then contact services currently working with individual, to see if a case manager/care plan is already in place.

Step 2: If there is a case manager already assigned then two workers and the service user will meet or it will be agreed over the phone how the agencies work to support the care plan.

Step 3: If no case manager exists then the service undertaking the comprehensive assessment will take the role of case manager/lead agency

- Note that for some services where case management is integral to the service e.g residential or day programmes, the initial and comprehensive assessments may be done in one sitting at referral or entry to the service, In lower threshold services the assessments may be done over a period of visits or meetings.