

HSC338 Carry out screening and referral assessment (Level 3)

Elements of Competence

- HSC338a** Identify substance misuse and related or co-existent problems
HSC338b Refer individuals to substance misuse and/or other services

About this unit

For this unit you need to recognise substance misuse problems and refer individuals to a substance misuse or other service appropriate to their immediate needs. It includes the assessment of risk to the individual and others, particularly the children of substance users.

Scope

The scope is here to give you guidance on possible areas to be covered in this unit. The terms in this section give you a list of options linked with items in the performance criteria. You need to provide evidence for any option related to your work area.

Action: exclusion from normal activities; referral to other services.

Co-existent problems: physical; psychological; social.

Indications of substance misuse: physical; behavioural; information provided by the individual; information from other sources.

Information: directories; databases; local, regional and national networks.

Others: adults; children.

Risk: self harm; harm to others; physical health problems; mental health problems.

Services: specialist substance misuse services; health services; social care services; other services (e.g. housing, legal).

Substances: drugs; alcohol; solvents.

This is Drugs and Alcohol National Occupational Standard (DANOS) AF1

HSC338a Identify substance misuse and related or co-existent problems

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you regularly update your knowledge about the range of substances which may be misused and the possible indications of substance misuse
2. you remain constantly alert to possible indications of substance misuse by those with whom you come into contact
3. you investigate situations sufficiently to allow you to make a reasonable judgement about whether individuals are misusing substances
4. you obtain specialist assistance where you are unable to make a reasonable judgement about whether individuals are misusing substances
5. you respond promptly to individuals presenting for substance misuse services in order to maintain their motivation and seize the opportunity for intervention
6. you assess any immediate risk to the individual and to others which may result from substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
7. you take prompt action appropriate to your assessment of risk in line with legal and organisational requirements
8. you record situations and actions taken in line with organisational requirements
9. you provide information about situations and actions taken only to those entitled to have it

HSC338b Refer individuals to substance misuse and/or services

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you have access to up to date and accurate information on services in your locality
2. you consider possible alternative services according to the needs of the individual
3. you present the possibility of referral to the individual in a positive manner and review the advantages and disadvantages with them
4. you refer the individual to a service with the required degree of urgency
5. you make referrals in line with local protocols and the eligibility criteria for accessing services
6. you establish the availability, accessibility and any cost of services to the individual prior to confirming the referral
7. you plan arrangements for the referral with the individual and facilitate their contact with the service
8. you agree with the individual the information to be passed to the service
9. you provide the service with complete and accurate information about the situation
10. following the referral, you obtain feedback from the service to evaluate and refine referral practices

11. you provide continuing support to individuals who do not want to be referred

Knowledge Specification for the whole of this unit

Competent practice is a combination of the application of skills and knowledge informed by values and ethics. This specification details the knowledge and understanding required to carry out competent practice in the performance described in this unit.

When using this specification **it is important to read the knowledge requirements in relation to expectations and requirements of your job role.**

You need to show that you know, understand and can apply in practice:

Legislation and organisational policy and procedures

1. organisational requirements and policies relevant to risk assessments

Theory and practice

Information handling:

2. the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so
3. the importance of providing full and accurate information, and how to do so
4. the principle of confidentiality: what information may be given to whom
5. how to present information to individuals in a positive manner

Monitoring and evaluation:

6. the importance of monitoring the situation regarding an individual's misuse of substances, and how to do so

Risk assessment:

7. how to assess the risk to individuals and to others from their substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
8. the risks to children of substance users, and how to assess these risks
9. the importance of regularly reviewing risk assessments

Substance misuse:

10. the range of different substances and their effects
11. the range of different indications of substance misuse: physical, behavioural and information provided by the individual or from other sources
12. ways of keeping your knowledge about substances and indications of substance misuse up to date
13. how to investigate situations in order to make a reasonable judgement about substance misuse
14. substance misuse specialists, and procedures for referring individuals to them
15. the range of actions you can take when individuals may be misusing substances, and how to decide what action is appropriate

Substance misuse services and interventions:

16. sources of information on substance misuse services and treatment interventions
17. the eligibility criteria for accessing services in your locality
18. how to plan and facilitate referrals to substance misuse services
19. how to assess the required degree of urgency when referring individuals to services