

HSC340 Carry out comprehensive substance misuse assessment (Level 3)

Elements of Competence

- HSC340a** Prepare for a comprehensive substance misuse assessment
- HSC340b** Assess possible risks and the individual's understanding of services available
- HSC340c** Assess the individual's substance misuse and related problems

About this unit

For this unit you need to assess the needs of substance misusers with complex requirements and/or those people who require more intensive and/or structured care programmes. It covers assessment that is on-going throughout the contact with the substance misuse service and the wider treatment system.

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.

Priority: severity of the individual's needs and their urgency; need to maintain individual's motivation; risk.

Information: personal details; treatment history; substances used; reports from courts, probation or care workers.

Services: internal to your organisation; external to your organization.

Capability: adults; children and young people; chaotic lifestyles; incoherence; intoxication.

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

Substance misuse problems: drug use (including type of drug/s, quantity/frequency of use, pattern of use, route of administration, source of drug); alcohol use (including quantity/frequency of use, pattern of use, whether above "safe" level, alcohol dependence symptoms); psychological problems (including self-harm, history of abuse/trauma, depression, paranoia, severe psychiatric co-morbidity, contact with mental health services); physical problems (including complications of drug/alcohol use, pregnancy, blood-borne infections/risk behaviours, liver disease, abscesses, overdose, enduring or severe physical disabilities); social problems (including child care issues, partners, domestic violence, family, housing, employment, benefits, financial problems); legal problems (including arrests, fines, outstanding charges/warrants, probation, imprisonment, violent offences, criminal activity).

Other problems: in need of intensive intervention; significant psychiatric and/or physical co-morbidity; in contact with multiple service providers; pregnancy or children 'at risk'; history of disengagement from substance misuse treatment services.

This is Drugs and Alcohol National Occupational Standard (DANOS) AF3.

HSC340a Prepare for a comprehensive substance misuse assessment

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you evaluate requests for assessment to determine their priority consistent with your organisation's criteria
2. you obtain information on the individual from previous assessments carried out by other services in line with protocols
3. you obtain further information if the initial information is insufficient for effective assessment to take place
4. you establish any particular needs of the individual which will need to be taken into account during the assessment from the available information
5. you fully and accurately record arrangements for the assessment in line with the organisation's procedures
6. you confirm arrangements for the assessment with the individual
7. you explain clearly to the individual any delays between requests for assessment and assessment taking place
8. you give the individual any documentation which needs to be completed by them to allow them to consider it before the assessment
9. you offer appropriate support to **individuals** who need assistance to complete documentation

HSC340b Assess possible risks and the individual's understanding of services available

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you inform the individual of the nature and duration of the assessment, the type of information which will be entered in their records and who will have the right of access to these
2. you conduct the assessment in line with locally agreed criteria and using standardised documentation
3. you involve the individual in the assessment as far as possible according to their capability
4. you review information obtained from previous assessments
5. you collect information from the individual, exploring historical factors as well as presenting factors
6. you assess the individual's understanding of services available and readiness to engage in a treatment programme
7. you deal with challenging, abusive, aggressive or chaotic behaviour
8. you assess any risk to the individual which may result from substance misuse according to locally agreed protocols
9. you encourage the individual to ask questions, seek advice and express any concerns

HSC340c Assess the individual's substance misuse and related problems

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you assess the nature of the individual's substance misuse problems and other problems
2. you seek clear conclusions from the assessment to inform the development of a comprehensive care plan
3. your assessment takes account of the individual's needs, any inherent risks and the legal duty of care to the individual and **others**
4. you keep accurate, legible and complete records of the assessment to inform the development of a care plan and for evaluation purposes
5. you continue assessment at appropriate intervals once the individual has commenced a care plan
6. you provide individuals with accurate and clear information on systems for making complaints about the assessment system and appealing on the decisions
7. you seek support from the appropriate person as soon as possible when there are any problems with the assessment
8. you discuss assessments with other members of the substance misuse service team in order to ensure consistency of approach
9. your assessment records are in a format and level of detail which can be audited against locally agreed standards

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 for 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:

Values

1. how to present information in a manner, level and pace appropriate to the individual

Legislation and organisational policy and procedures

2. the principles of the Children's Act 1989 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
3. how to obtain information from individuals and other agencies in line with protocols
4. how to pass information obtained during an assessment to another agency in line with local protocols

Theory and practice

Assessment of individuals:

5. how to evaluate requests for assessment according to their priority in line with your organisations criteria
6. how to involve an individual in the assessment of their needs
7. how to assess an individual's understanding of services available and readiness to engage in a treatment programme
8. how to deal with challenging, abusive, aggressive or chaotic behaviour
9. how to assess individuals who are intoxicated
10. who can provide support when there are any problems with the assessment
11. how to achieve consistency in assessments with other workers in your organisation
12. the importance of adhering to locally agreed criteria and documentation when carrying out assessments
13. how to record the outcomes of assessments and use the assessment to inform the development of a comprehensive care plan
14. how to review assessments at appropriate intervals once an individual has commenced a programme of care
15. how to involve adults with parental responsibility in the assessment and referral of children and young people
16. how to take account of a child or young persons age and maturity when involving them in assessment

Information handling:

17. the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so
18. the principle of confidentiality: what information may be given to whom
19. how to support individuals to complete documentation

Monitoring and evaluation:

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

Risk assessment:

21. how to assess the risk to individuals and to others from their substance misuse and/or co-existent problems
22. the importance of regularly reviewing risk assessments

Substance misuse:

23. the signs and implications of a range of substance misuse related problems including drug use, alcohol use, psychological problems, physical problems, social problems and legal problems
24. how to deal with other problems including the need for intensive interventions, significant psychiatric and or physical co-morbidity, contact with multiple service providers, pregnancy or children 'at risk' and a history of disengagement from substance misuse treatment services
25. ways of keeping your knowledge about substances and indications of substance misuse up to date
26. how to understand the jargon used by substance misusers in your locality

Substance misuse services and interventions:

27. sources of information on substance misuse services and treatment interventions
28. the range of treatment interventions and assessment services available in your locality
29. the eligibility criteria and protocols for accessing services in your locality
30. national, local and organisational treatment priorities and resource constraints
31. how to respond to individuals who do not want to be referred to other services