

Direct Enhanced Service Specification for a direct enhanced service: Alcohol Service Level Agreement

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Financial Details

This agreement is to cover the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2010.

This is a two year DES. Payment will be made at the end each financial year on receipt from the practice of a validated audit.

On agreeing a service plan with the PCT, practices will receive:

£2.33 for each newly registered patient aged 16 or over who have received screening using either FAST or AUDIT-C.

SIGNATURE

The practice will need to sign and return a copy to the PCT of the attached signature sheet for the Alcohol Enhanced Services provided. This will constitute the agreement between the practice and the PCT in respect the Direct Enhanced Service, as specified.

Service Aims

The purpose of this Directed Enhanced Service is to address the issue of illness associated with increasing alcohol consumption. The DES is to reward practices for case finding in newly registered patients aged 16 and over. It also aims to deliver a simple brief intervention to help reduce alcohol related risks in adults drinking at hazardous and harmful levels.

About 26% of all adults in England, which equates to approximately 7.1 million people, are drinking at hazardous or harmful levels. A further 1.1 million people are showing signs of alcohol dependence. With 63% of all adults visiting their GP during the course of the year,

primary care offers a unique opportunity to identify harmful and hazardous drinkers and intervene early to bring down the level of risk identified.

Exception reporting, including for informed dissent, does not apply.

Staff involved

All members of the Primary Health Care Team

Criteria

This Directed Enhanced Service Specification details the following criteria.

It is expected that practices participating in this DES will respond to identified need and provide the appropriate intervention as required.

Criteria One : Screening

Details

Practices will be required to screen newly registered patients aged 16 or over using either one or two shortened versions of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) questionnaire: FAST or AUDIT – C.

FAST has four questions and AUDIT-C has three questions, with each taking approximately one minute to complete.

Criteria Two: Identification

Details

If a patient is identified as positive, the remaining questions of the ten question AUDIT questionnaire are used to determine hazardous, harmful or likely dependent drinking.

Criteria Three: Intervention

Details

The Practice should deliver a brief intervention to those identified as drinking at hazardous or harmful levels. Dependent drinkers should be referred to specialist services.

The recommended brief intervention is the basic five minutes of advice used in WHO clinical trial of brief intervention in primary care, using a programme modified for the UK context by the University of Newcastle – *How Much is Too Much?*

It is expected that practices participating in this DES will respond to identified need and provide the appropriate intervention as required.

Criteria Four: Annual Report

Details

Practices will be required to provide an annual audit to the PCT of:

- The number of newly registered patients aged 16 and over within the financial year who have had the short standard case finding test (FAST or AUDIT-C);
- The number of newly registered patients aged 16 or over who have screened positive using a short-case finding test (as above) during the financial year, who then undergo a fuller assessment using a validated tool (AUDIT) to determine hazardous, harmful or dependent drinking;
- The number of hazardous or harmful drinkers who have received a brief intervention to help them reduce their alcohol-related risk;
- The number of patients scoring 20+ on AUDIT who have been referred for specialist advice for dependent drinking.

Exception reporting, including for informed dissent, does not apply.

Ongoing Measurement and Evaluation

The ongoing measurement is outlined in the various criteria in the previous section. **The services provided and scope of this DES will be reviewed with the practice as part of the annual contract monitoring process.**

October 2008

Signature Sheet – Alcohol

Signature on behalf of the practice

Signature	Name	Date

Signature on behalf of the PCT

Signature	Name	Date
	Darrell Jackson	