Frequently Asked Questions

Adult AOD Screening and Assessment Tool

10 July 2013

Why has a new adult AOD screening and assessment tool been developed?
- In Victoria, there can be frequent, multiple and varied client screening and assessment by separate providers to access the range of treatment types available.
- The Victorian Government is committed to delivering evidence-based screening and assessment to clients that minimises the burden on clients and services.

How will these changes improve treatment for clients?
- The new tool will minimise duplication of screening and assessment, streamline intake processes, improve clients’ experience of intake, and inform treatment planning, referral and pathways.

What is the adult AOD screening and assessment tool?
- The new tool includes a client self-complete initial screen (step 1), a comprehensive assessment (step 2) and a review (step 3).
- A number of optional modules have also been developed for use, as required.
- The tool includes the latest evidence informed by local practice wisdom.
- A number of standardised scales, which are already in use across the AOD sector and will be familiar to service providers, have been incorporated into the tool.
- A clinician guide is available to provide advice about the use of the tool.

What are the optional screening and assessment modules?
- The tool includes a number of optional modules for use at the discretion of agencies and staff. The modules cover:
  1. Physical examination
  2. Referral for Neuropsychology assessment
  3. Mental Health (Modified Mini Screen)
  4. PsyCheck
  5. Quality of Life
  6. Gambling
  7. Goal Setting
  8. Assessment of Recovery Capital
  9. Strengths
  10. Family Violence
  11. The Impact of AOD on Family Members

Where can I find a copy of the new adult AOD screening and assessment tool and the clinician guide?
- The tool and guide are available via the following link: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aod/sectorreform.htm

What evidence is the tool based upon?
- The findings of a state-wide online survey, policy analysis and systematic literature review informed the development of the draft tool.
Two phases of pilot testing were conducted at eight Victorian adult AOD agencies across metropolitan and regional areas.

74 staff participated in implementing the tool at pilot sites.

The pilot tool was used in over 500 cases, yielding significant data for analysis.

Feedback from staff and clients informed refinement of the tool.

Overall, the tool’s usefulness and acceptability was strongly supported by staff and clients at pilot sites.

**Will use of the tool be required?**

Yes, use of the initial screen (Step 1) and comprehensive assessment (Step 2) will be required.

Other parts of the tool, including case summaries and the optional modules, may be used at the clinician’s and agency’s discretion.

**Who will have to use the new screening and assessment tool?**

All Department of Health-funded agencies delivering AOD services or programs will be required to use the new tool under new service agreements following the recommissioning process.

**When will use of the tool be required?**

Use of the tool will be required in new service agreements rolled out under the recommissioning framework in mid-2014.

**What if we want to continue using our current screening and assessment processes?**

The screening and comprehensive assessment will be implemented across the sector; however, organisations may choose to add their own modules or use any of the optional modules.

We will work with organisations that have particular concerns throughout 2013 to support them in the transition to integrating their existing approaches with the new tool.

**Should services commence transitioning to using the new screening and assessment tool now?**

Yes. Services are encouraged to commence transitioning to using the new screening and assessment tools in 2013.

Integration of the tool into existing processes should be considered during this time.

The Department has funded the delivery of sector training in the first half of 2013 to support the change ahead.

Online training will be available from late 2013 (http://www.turningpoint.org.au/Education/Professional-Development.aspx)

**How does the new adult AOD screening and assessment tool align with AOD reform identified in the roadmap?**

The roadmap identified the introduction of new screening and assessment tools as one of the key reform actions over the next two years.

**Does the adult AOD screening and assessment tool apply to youth services?**

No. A separate pilot process is currently underway to test a new youth AOD screening and assessment tool.
Does the adult AOD screening and assessment tool apply to Indigenous services?

- Ongoing consultation is occurring with Indigenous services regarding the appropriateness of the tool for their client group.
- To date, feedback has been largely positive.

How is the new adult AOD screening and assessment tool linked to screening practices in other health settings?

- The initial screen component of the Adult AOD tool is currently being pilot tested in non-AOD services, such as housing, mental health and child protection services (DHS Services Connect).
- The pilot testing at non-AOD services will map referral pathways, assess initial screen uptake and completion rates, and assess staff and client satisfaction.
- The key question for this non-AOD pilot is whether the initial screen can be integrated within existing practices to effectively screen and refer appropriate clients to AOD services.

How does the new adult screening and assessment tool align with SCTT?

- The Service Coordination Tool Templates (SCTT) are a suite of tools that support service coordination and standardised data collection at government funded health and community services.
- The SCTT include a single page screen of health and social needs, including AOD needs.
- The new adult AOD screening and assessment tool has been designed to complement SCTT by providing a specialist AOD screen when SCTT triggers a need for further screening of AOD issues.

Is there an online version of the screen?

- Yes. The link to the online version is:  
- At present the online screen is an abridged version which contains all four screeners and some basic demographic information. Services may wish to record additional registration and further demographic information.
- The online screen may be a useful option for some clients and agencies.
- The only way to currently print results is to do a print screen for each page completed.

Where can I find more information about the new screening and assessment tool?

- More information and frequently asked questions about the tool can be found in the Clinician Guide which accompanies the AOD screening and assessment tool (http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aod/sectorreform.htm).