

Appendix 2

Specification for a directed enhanced service in England: alcohol

Introduction

1. It is a government priority 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 risk in adults drinking at hazardous and harmful levels.
2. This two-year DES does not include a requirement to set up a register of hazardous or harmful drinkers.
3. The total investment available for this DES in England in 2008/09 and 2009/10, is £8m per year.

Details of the DES

4. Practices will be required to screen newly registered patients aged 16 and over using either one of 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.
5. If a patient is identified as positive, the remaining questions of the ten question AUDIT questionnaire are used to determine hazardous, harmful or likely dependant drinking.
6. Following identification, 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.
7. 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?*
8. Further information regarding the audit tools and brief intervention can be found at : <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ihs/news/item/?brief-interventions-alcohol-and-health-improvement>

Validation and payment

9. Practices will be required to provide an audit 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 and 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 likely 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.

10. Payment will be made at the end of the year (31 March each year) following receipt by the PCT of the audit.
11. Each year, practices will receive £2.33 for each newly registered patient aged 16 and over who have received screening using either FAST or AUDIT-C. It is expected that practices participating in this DES will respond to identified need and provide the intervention as required.