

Hostel Opiate Overdose Risk Assessment Tool

Instructions: In a safe environment, complete the proforma with your client.

If the answer to a question is <yes> circle the score; If answer is <no> record no score for that question

Make any notes related to your answer as required;

Add up the total score to establish the level of risk;

Determine the most appropriate type of housing and other interventions as appropriate.

Risk Factor	Score	Notes
1 Current heroin user	1	
2 Current injector	2	
3 Has started injecting in last six months	3	
4 Current methadone user	1	
5 Is <u>not</u> on supervised consumption	2	
6 Also drinks alcohol	2	
7 Also uses benzos	2	
8 Dual use of heroin with crack	2	
9 Has been in prison, hospital or residential drugs treatment in preceding month	3	
10 Has ever overdosed (but not in past year)	1	
11 Has overdosed once in past year	2	
12 Has overdosed two or more times in past year	3	
13 Has been using for more than five years	1	
14 Is using large amounts to get a buzz	1	
15 Finds it harder to get a buzz	2	
16 Enjoys a really big 'gouch' or 'nod'	3	
17 Currently experiencing severe low mood or depression	3	
18 Tends to use alone	3	
19 Has health problems (e.g hepatitis, respiratory problems)	2	
Total		
Scores less than 5	Consider for independent living; harm reduction re identified risk factors	
Scores of 5 – 10	Consider for cluster flats or hostels staffed day-time with on-call at nights; harm reduction re identified risk factors	
Scores 10+	High risk – consider housing in 24 hour staffed accommodation – address all risk factors, especially high risk activities; OD training for all staff and residents, harm reduction advice to residents.	
Score 15+	Very High Risk – 24 hour staffed environment; consider regular room inspections at night; use of 'Red Board' to flag high-risk residents; OD training; harm reduction advice to residents.	

Disclaimer: this tool is for guidance only and does not guarantee to identify all risk taking behaviour. No liability can be taken for a failure on the part of this tool to anticipate overdose.