

Alcohol dependence and harmful alcohol use quality standard

Issued: August 2011

NICE quality standard 11

guidance.nice.org.uk/qs11

**This is an extract from the quality standard. The complete quality
standard is available at guidance.nice.org.uk/qs11**

List of statements

Statement 1. Health and social care staff receive alcohol awareness training that promotes respectful, non-judgmental care of people who misuse alcohol.

Statement 2. Health and social care staff opportunistically carry out screening and brief interventions for hazardous and harmful drinking as an integral part of practice.

Statement 3. People who may benefit from specialist assessment or treatment for alcohol misuse are offered referral to specialist alcohol services and are able to access specialist alcohol treatment.

Statement 4. People accessing specialist alcohol services receive assessments and interventions delivered by appropriately trained and competent specialist staff.

Statement 5. Adults accessing specialist alcohol services for alcohol misuse receive a comprehensive assessment that includes the use of validated measures.

Statement 6. Children and young people accessing specialist services for alcohol use receive a comprehensive assessment that includes the use of validated measures.

Statement 7. Families and carers of people who misuse alcohol have their own needs identified, including those associated with risk of harm, and are offered information and support.

Statement 8. People needing medically assisted alcohol withdrawal are offered treatment within the setting most appropriate to their age, the severity of alcohol dependence, their social support and the presence of any physical or psychiatric comorbidities.

Statement 9. People needing medically assisted alcohol withdrawal receive medication using drug regimens appropriate to the setting in which the withdrawal is managed in accordance with NICE guidance.

Statement 10. People with suspected, or at high risk of developing, Wernicke's encephalopathy are offered thiamine in accordance with NICE guidance.

Statement 11. Adults who misuse alcohol are offered evidence-based psychological interventions, and those with alcohol dependence that is moderate or severe can in addition access relapse prevention medication in accordance with NICE guidance.

Statement 12. Children and young people accessing specialist services for alcohol use are offered individual cognitive behavioural therapy, or if they have significant comorbidities or limited social support, a multicomponent programme of care including family or systems therapy.

Statement 13. People receiving specialist treatment for alcohol misuse have regular treatment outcome reviews, which are used to plan subsequent care.

In addition, quality standards that should also be considered when commissioning and providing a high-quality alcohol service are listed in [related NICE quality standards](#).