*Risk assessment for patients with complex needs relating to drugs and alcohol policy template*

Purpose:

To inform clinical staff of circumstances where a patient is considered high clinical risk and in need of referral to public alcohol and drug facilities, or a general practitioner with advanced training in addiction medicine.

For more information, please refer to the RACGPs [Prescribing drugs of dependence in general practice – Part A – Clinical Governance Framework](https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/clinical-guidelines/key-racgp-guidelines/view-all-racgp-guidelines/prescribing-drugs-of-dependence/prescribing-drugs-of-dependence-part-a).

[Insert practice name] policy for patients with complex needs – risk assessment for ongoing management

*Current as of: [insert date of last revision]*

*Version no: [insert version number]*

*Review date: [insert date]*

**PATIENTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS RELATING TO DRUGS AND ALOCHOL – RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ONGOING MANAGEMENT**

This practice deems the following patients to be at high clinical risk and in need of referral to public alcohol and drug facilities, or a general practitioner with advanced training in addiction medicine:

* patients discharged from other general practices due to problematic behaviour
* patients with a past family or personal history of substance misuse
* patients recently discharged from correctional services facility
* patients using drugs of dependence with serious mental health comorbidities, or antipsychotic medication
* patients using a mix of opioids and illicit drugs
* patients using a mix of opioids and benzodiazepines.

[*Strike out or add as required.*]

Disclaimer

The information set out in this publication is current at the date of first publication and is intended for use as a guide of a general nature only and may or may not be relevant to particular patients or circumstances. Nor is this publication exhaustive of the subject matter. It is no substitute for individual inquiry. Compliance with any recommendations does not guarantee discharge of the duty of care owed to patients. The RACGP and its employees and agents have no liability (including for negligence) to any users of the information contained in this publication.

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