

Inclusive and innovative implementation of the AOD Clinical Care Standards into practice

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Background:

The NSW Clinical Care Standards for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment outline the core elements of care that underpin treatment within NSW alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services. The Standards have a strong focus on health equity, trauma informed practice and on improving the experience of receiving AOD treatment. People want and need a treatment system that they can engage with early, that provides treatment options where and when they need it and are tailored to the outcomes that matter to them.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention:

The motivation for developing the Standards was to support people accessing AOD treatment and their communities to know what to expect at every step of the treatment journey and how they can partner with providers to achieve their goals. Adequate support for implementation, including training, is essential for embedding the Standards into practice.

A collaborative implementation approach has been designed and tailored to each local health district in New South Wales. Drawing on principles of person-centred, trauma-informed care, the approach engages the whole of the workforce (for government, non-government providers) in each area, inclusive of local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. Each workshop engages a presenter with lived and/or living experience of AOD treatment to reflect on their experiences and their advice on how to ensure the delivery of each Standard is person-centred.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation:

An evaluation framework was developed and applied to each workshop to determine its acceptability and effectiveness. With a process of 3-month follow up to measure application in practice. These outcomes will be explored as part of the presentation.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

This practice sharing presentation will explore the development of the NSW Clinical Care Standards for AOD Treatment, how all stakeholders were engaged, the implementation approach and the methods for evaluating the outcomes.

Implications for Practice or Policy:

The NSW AOD Clinical Care Standards, and the model for implementation has utility for adaption in other states and territories across Australia.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: NIL to declare