

Development of Quality Use of Medicines Indicators to Guide Best Practice in Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence in Outpatient Services

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Introduction and Aims: Relevant, viable and effective Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) indicators support measurement of safe and effective medication use. Despite involving high-risk pharmacotherapies, no published indicators for auditing QUM in Medication Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) in Australia are available. This project aimed to develop a QUM indicator assessment tool to support best practice in prescribing, provision, monitoring, and clinical outcomes in MATOD outpatient practice.

Method: A QUM indicator tool was developed within Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA) using a three-step process. Step 1 identified potential indicators using a multifaceted approach, including review of existing guidelines, client feedback and incident data, and a DASSA-wide online survey exploring individual clinician experience and knowledge surrounding medication related incidents. In Step 2 indicators were refined through semi-structured interviews with multidisciplinary addiction medicine clinicians. Step 3 used an online Delphi survey with a panel of 9 addiction medicine experts to gain consensus on indicators to include in the tool, prior to final deliberation by the DASSA Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

Results: 56 potential indicators were identified, 44 remained after clinician interviews. Through the Delphi processes, 37 indicators reached consensus. Two additional indicators were added to the final tool post Drug and Therapeutics Committee review.

Discussion and Conclusions: This 39-item QUM tool will be trialled to audit local practice. Other services delivering MATOD may elect to use the tool, or parts thereof, to monitor practice. Audit results can be used to guide quality improvement activities, ultimately facilitating improvements in MATOD and optimising patient outcomes.