

## **Saving 50 Alcohol & Other Drugs clients per year (from becoming a burden of disease data!)**

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**Introduction:** A quality improvement project was undertaken to raise awareness that assessing Mental Health (MH) risk for Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) clients. The AOD clinicians are identified as fundamental in implementing the changes that are necessary for creating the 'future state' of performance, ensuring that MH risk screening is completed on eMR for clients.

**Abstract body:** Illicit drug use attributes to 3% of the disease burden in Australia, of which 15% is suicide and self-inflicted injuries (AIHW, 2018). Contextually, 15% of the current 337 Liverpool Drug Health (LDH) clients, 50 clients are at risk of suicide and/or self-harm. Therefore, it is essential to create an urgency to ensure that MH risks are identified, screening completed and care provided in a timely manner so that 50 clients do not become an AIWH or RCA statistical data.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** A preliminary review of eMR records for thirty-five clients (10%) at LDH identified that the MH Risk screening had not been completed, although clients had identified having MH issues at initial assessment. Clients registered at the LDHS, either attending the clinic daily or at the community pharmacy are included within the scope. The first stage of improvement is to accompany the urgency with transparent communication regarding the significance of not changing current practice and the detrimental effect on AOD clients with MH risks. Consequently, an infographic and education session was formulated to highlight the importance of comprehensive screening and assessment application necessary for reducing risk of harm for clients in early deduction and its management (NSQHS, 2017).

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