

Core and Specialist Skills Assessment

CORE 10: Medication and treatment engagement


Scope and Objectives

This Core and Specialist Assessment (CSAt) will enable the allied health professional to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the major classifications/groups of medication used in mental health alcohol and other drugs (MHAOD) care and monitors their use (including side effects and beneficial outcomes) by consumers.
- Encourage consumers to be an active participant in their intervention and treatment plans.
- Explain the major classifications/groups of medication used in MHAOD practice.
- Explain the beneficial effects and side effects of the major classifications/groups of medication used in MHAOD care.
- Locate and study appropriate reference sources for self-education and consumer education if need be.

In order to complete this CSAt, it is recommended that the allied health professional connect with HHS staff in medical, nursing or pharmacy roles.

This CSAt should be used in conjunction with professional supervision and the Allied Health MHAOD New Graduate Program Framework. The framework and associated resources are available at: <https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/allied-health/mental-health>

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The CSAt reflects best practice and agreed process for conduct of the task at the time of approval and should not be altered. Feedback, including proposed amendments to this published document, should be directed to the Office of the Chief Allied Health Officer (OCAHO) at: OCAHO-MHAODS@health.qld.gov.au			
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Requisite training, knowledge, skills and experience

Training opportunities

- Training as outlined in the New Graduate Framework “Graduate Training Schedule and Record”.
- Internal linkage opportunities within the HHS:
 - Connect with Psychiatrists or other medical staff, Nursing, and Pharmacy staff within the HHS.
- External linkage opportunities:
 - [Choice and Medication© Printable Leaflets](#) which provide information about psychotropic medications for use with consumers and/or carers receiving health care from Queensland Health.
 - CKN provides clinicians with direct access to the latest evidence-based information for point of care decision making; medical, nursing and health research; and ongoing professional development.
 - eMIMS/MIMS provide quality, independent medicine information to Australian healthcare professionals.
- Graduate Reflective Learning Sessions or peer learning groups and supervision.

Clinical knowledge/evidence

The following are examples of demonstrating content knowledge by an allied health professional:

- Able to identify the treatment group and purpose of the prescribed medications.
- Provide psychoeducation on medication and side effects to consumers and/or carers utilising printable resources such as from [Choice and Medication© Printable Leaflets](#).
- Actively explore barriers and facilitate problem solving to support medication treatment engagement (e.g. finances, side effects, cognition).
- Support consumers to be able to discuss openly discuss all medications, including complimentary medicines (e.g. supplements, over the counter medications and vitamins, etc), identify and report possible medication side effects to the treating team.
- Encourage consumers to develop structures and routines to support their medication treatment engagement.
- Aware of scope and role as an allied health professional in supporting medication dispensing, transportation, administration, monitoring, and education.

References and supporting documents

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (second edition) alignment



1. Clinical Governance Standard



2. Partnering with Consumers Standard



4. Medication Safety Standard



5. Comprehensive Care Standard



6. Communicating for Safety Standard



8. Recognising and responding to Acute Deterioration Standard

National

- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. [National Medication Management Plan](#). (2021).

Queensland

- Clinical guidelines, policies and resources developed by the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch (the Branch) supports the statewide development, delivery and enhancement of safe, quality, evidence-based clinical and non-clinical services in the specialist areas of mental health and alcohol and other drugs treatment. Key documents include:
 - [Queensland Alcohol and Drug Withdrawal Clinical Practice Guidelines](#). (2012).
 - [Queensland Opioid Dependence Treatment Guidelines](#). (2023).
- Key legislation and documentation including factsheets and supporting documents:
 - [Medicines and Poisons Act 2019](#) is the overarching legislation in Queensland establishing the legal and policy framework and allows for regulations to be made under the Act. There are three regulations provide more detail and identify how the Act is to be applied.
 - [Medicines and Poisons \(Medicines\) Regulation 2021](#) – therapeutic use
 - [Medicines and Poisons \(Poisons and Prohibited Substances\) Regulation 2021](#)
 - [Medicines and Poisons \(Pest Management Activities\) Regulation 2021](#)
 - [Therapeutic Goods Act 2019 \(Qld\)](#)
- Review local HHS medication policies and procedures.

Assessment: performance criteria

CORE 10: Medication and treatment engagement

Name:

Position:

Work Unit:

Assessment criteria		Applicable (Y/N)	Date achieved	Assessor initial
1	Reads and understands the organisational policies, procedures and local clinical area guidelines for safe medication administration across different service areas i.e. community, inpatient and extended treatment settings.			
2	Demonstrates awareness of own scope of practice with relation to medication including prescribing, administration, storage and transport and demonstrates understanding of consumer self-administration of medications.			
3	Demonstrates knowledge of adverse effects of psychoactive drugs, illicit and recreational drugs on persons with mental illness and their effects on medication.			
4	Supports consumers to understand what medications they are on, side effects, any routine monitoring (e.g. blood tests), and the importance of discussing changes in non-MHAOD prescribed medications and complimentary medicines (e.g. supplements, over the counter medications and vitamins, etc).			
5	Demonstrates knowledge of medication engagement issues, the factors that affect concordance, and assists consumers with treatment engagement in a recovery-oriented manner.			
6	Documents accurate information where applicable regarding medication and treatment engagement in the consumer's clinical records in a timely manner as applicable.			
7	Demonstrates knowledge of the range of medications used in MHAOD care including their side effects and monitoring requirements including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-psychotics (e.g. Clozapine, depot); • anxiolytics; • anti-depressants used in mental health and serotonin syndrome; • mood stabilisers (e.g. Lithium levels); • opioid dependence treatment (ODT); • withdrawal management medication; • craving management medication; • Hepatitis C treatment. 			
8	Provide medication information in an accessible format that meets the consumer's needs.			
9	Demonstrates awareness of the impacts of polypharmacy (including complimentary medicines e.g. supplements, over the counter medications and vitamins, etc).			
10	Able to provide psychoeducation with respect to medication self-administration and explore strategies and routines which support concordance.			
11	Demonstrates the organisational ability while working closely with other multidisciplinary team members to support medication management in alignment with the HHS procedure and established communication pathways. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medication management care planning; • communicates medication changes to GP and community pharmacies in a timely manner (e.g. medical letters, care review documents, medication list, change of medications forms); • arranging consumer prescriptions and medications, storage and transport; • facilitating access for depot medications; • working with community pharmacies to ensure that consumers receive their medications in a timely manner and packed appropriately. (i.e. Webster pack) 			
12	Demonstrates skills to respond to a medical emergency (Code blue) and taking basic physical observations.			

Reflective practice		Date achieved	Assessor initial
R1	Reflects on what own discipline role and scope of practice in supporting medication education, use and monitoring.		
R2	Utilise a recovery-focus and discipline-specific lens to reflect upon the person's relationship with medication and how this supports and hinders their recovery goals		
R3	Reflects on effective strategies to support a person's medication treatment engagement considering factors such as capacity, volition, and cognition.		

Comments:

Record of assessment competence:				
Assessor name and signature:		Assessor position:		Competence achieved: / /
Assessor name and signature:		Assessor position:		
Assessor name and signature:		Assessor position:		