

ALCOHOL LIAISON NURSE – 7 DAY SERVICE PROVIDING CARE AND TREATMENT TO PEOPLE PRESENTING TO ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY WITH ISSUES RELATING TO PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USE

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Background:

The Alcohol Liaison Nurse Service (ALNS) within NHS Grampian historically operated as a 5 day service for people presenting with issues relating to alcohol use. In 2020 -1339 drug related deaths were registered in Scotland, 5% (59 deaths) more than 2019. Additional funding was secured for a 2 year project for the ALNS to deliver a 7 day service incorporating the Emergency Department (ED) and wider hospital to include patients who present with issues relating to problematic substance use.

Service objectives include:

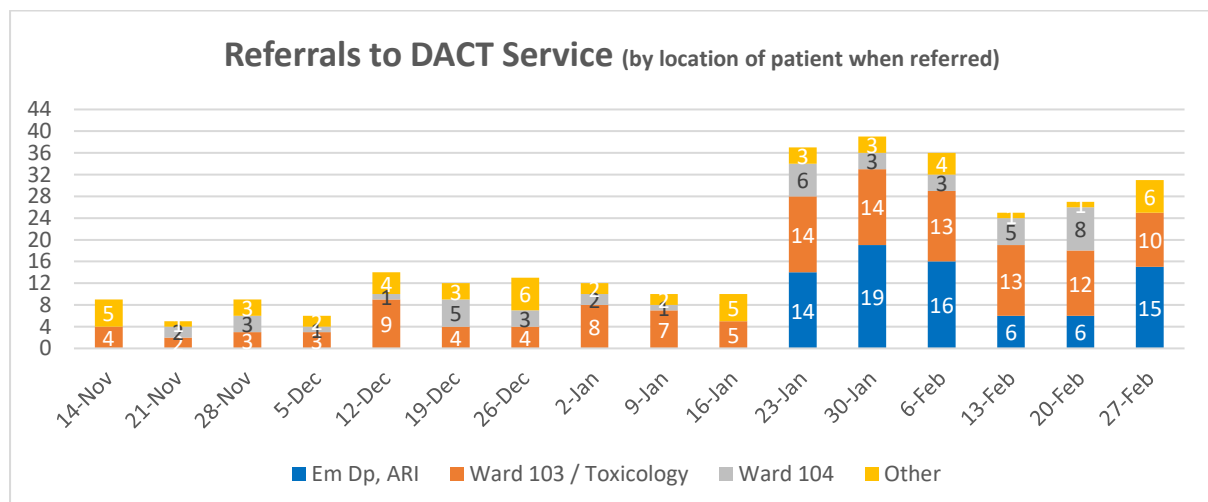
- A reduction in unplanned readmissions and drug related deaths
- Delivery of harm reduction prior to patient discharge
- Initiation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) care and connection with recovery communities
- Co-ordinated transfer between acute and community services
- Introducing peer support within the hospital
- Destigmatising hospital staff attitudes towards drug users
- Assessing BBV status of drug users and testing/referral to liver services when required

Description of model of care/intervention:

The expanded service has been operational since January 2022, a Clinical Nurse Specialist is based in ED 7 days per week 8am-8pm. Initial assessment is carried out at the point of presentation. Out-with these hours there is an electronic referral system.

Effectiveness:

Early data suggests referrals have increased by 300%



Feedback from service users and colleagues has been positive and the 7 day service has been beneficial in capturing patients who would not have previously been assessed.

Conclusion and next steps:

This is one of the first 7 day alcohol and substance use liaison services initiated in Scotland. Project management and data collection will allow us to alter the model of care as required and provide data to assess if the project objectives are being met.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No conflicts of interest