

Appendix 5

Evaluation Methods – Prospective Client Audit

The audit tool

All clinicians were asked to complete a paper based audit of risk factor management activities for each client seen during a two week audit period at baseline and post intervention. The audit tool was only required to be completed once per client seen during the audit period. The audit tool (appendix 6) included whether the clinician asked about, provided verbal or written advice or referral for SNAP risk factors. The audit tool also included information on client or visit characteristics such as age, post code, reason for visit, type of visit (first or follow up). The clinician also ticked whether this was planned or opportunistic activity and whether it was appropriate to address risk factors with the client (and if not appropriate the reason why). The clinician was asked to complete the audit tool as soon as possible after the consultation.

Analysis:

All data was entered into SPSS version 14.0 and checked for accuracy of data entry. Open responses (reason for visit and reason why inappropriate to address) were coded and categorised for the purpose of data analysis. Only clinicians with baseline and post intervention data were included in the analysis (n=35). Clinicians were also excluded if the response rate to the audit (number of clients audited out of total number of clients seen) was less than 30%, as a low response rate may indicate a bias on the types of clients audited. Three clinicians were excluded due to a low response rate. The total number of valid audit sheets obtained at baseline and post intervention was 458 and 519 respectively.

To assess changes in rates of screening for each risk factor, the number and percentage of new clients (excluding those deemed inappropriate) with a screening outcome recorded was compared between baseline and post intervention using Chi Square. Screening rates were only examined for new clients as this was typically when screening was undertaken. To further assess the reach of screening, the number of clients identified at risk for smoking, alcohol and physical activity (excluding those deemed inappropriate) was compared to the number expected to be 'at risk' based on NSW Health survey 2006 (<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/survey/hsurvey.html>) adjusted for the age and sex of the audit population. This excluded This was compared at baseline and post intervention using Chi Square.

To assess changes in intervention for each risk factor, the number and percentage of 'at risk' clients who were recorded to have received an intervention were compared between baseline and post intervention using Chi Square. Intervention was defined as one or more of the following activities: verbal advice, written advice, referral, or issue addressed previously. Analysis excludes clients clinicians deemed 'inappropriate' to address risk factors with. Clients deemed 'inappropriate' as 'risk factors previously addressed were included in the analysis.