

Coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse: assessment and management in healthcare settings overview

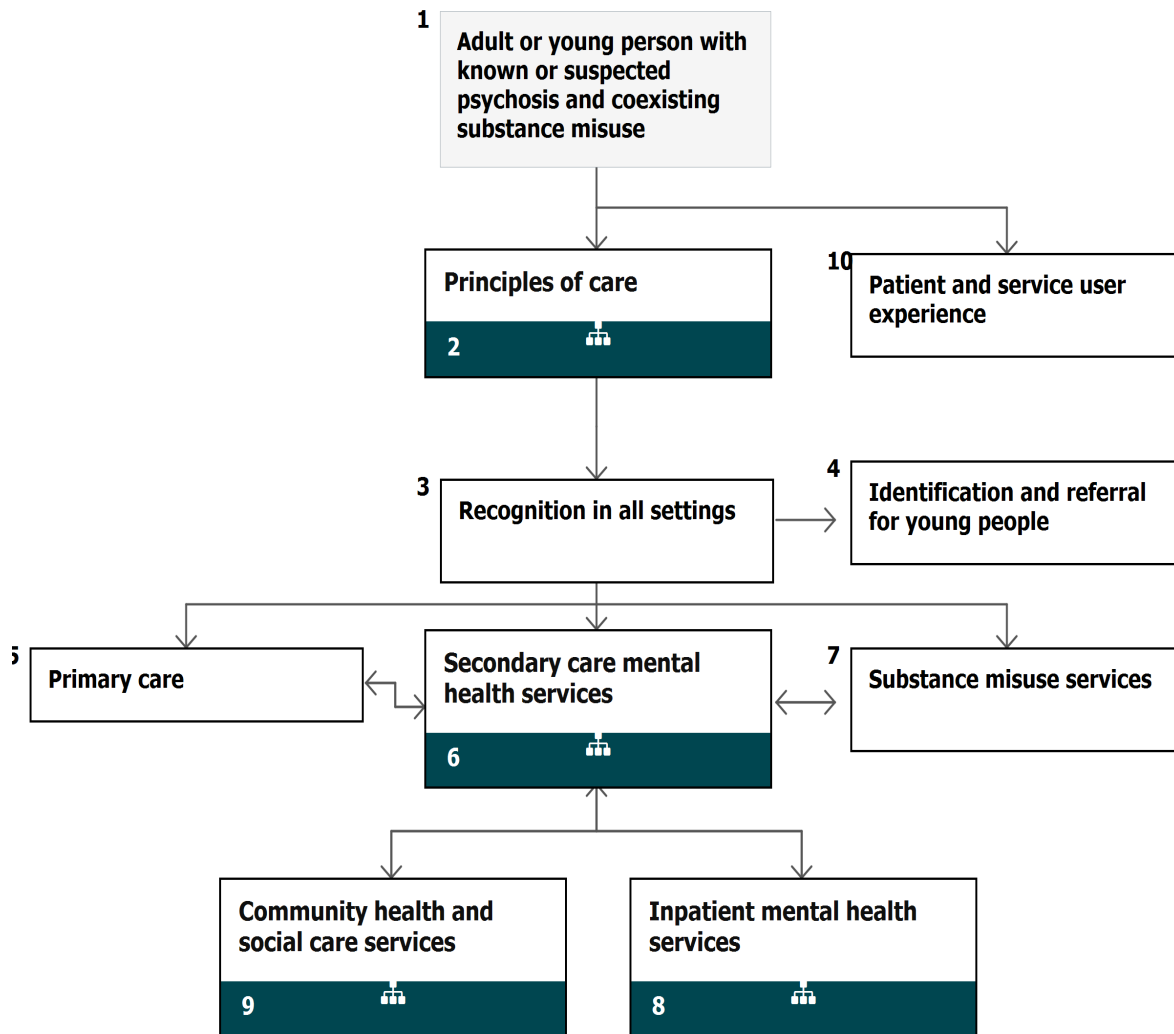
NICE Pathways bring together all NICE guidance, quality standards and other NICE information on a specific topic.

NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online. They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/coexisting-severe-mental-illness-and-substance-misuse-assessment-and-management-in-healthcare-settings>

Pathway last updated: 06 June 2017

This document contains a single pathway diagram and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Adult or young person with known or suspected psychosis and coexisting substance misuse

No additional information

2 Principles of care

See Coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse: assessment and management in healthcare settings / Principles of care for adults and young people with coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse in healthcare settings

3 Recognition in all settings

Healthcare professionals in all settings (including primary care, secondary care mental health services, CAMHS and accident and emergency departments, and those in prisons and criminal justice mental health liaison schemes) should routinely ask adults and young people with known or suspected psychosis about their use of alcohol and/or prescribed and non-prescribed (including illicit) drugs. If the person has used substances, ask them about all of the following:

- particular substance(s) used
- quantity, frequency and pattern of use
- route of administration
- duration of current level of use.

Conduct an assessment of dependency (see what NICE says on drug misuse management in over 16s and alcohol-use disorders), and seek corroborative evidence from families, carers or significant others, where possible and permission is given.

Healthcare professionals in all settings (including primary care, secondary care mental health services, CAMHS and accident and emergency departments, and those in prisons and criminal justice mental health liaison schemes) should routinely assess adults and young people with known or suspected substance misuse for possible psychosis. Seek corroborative evidence from families, carers or significant others, where possible and permission is given.

4 Identification and referral for young people

Professionals in Tier 1 should seek advice or consultation from Tier 2 CAMHS when signs of psychosis are detected in young people. If healthcare professionals in Tier 2 CAMHS detect signs of psychosis in young people, a referral to Tier 3 CAMHS or early intervention in psychosis services for young people should be made according to local protocols.

Ask all young people seen in Tier 3 CAMHS and Tier 4 CAMHS and in early intervention in psychosis services who have psychosis or suspected psychosis about substance misuse (see recognition in all settings in this path).

Children and young people who are considered to be at high risk of harm to themselves or others should be referred directly to Tier 4 CAMHS including inpatient services where necessary.

5 Primary care

Referral from primary care

Refer to secondary care mental health services or CAMHS, for assessment and further management, all adults and young people with either of the following:

- psychosis or suspected psychosis, including those who are suspected of having coexisting substance misuse problems
- substance misuse or suspected substance misuse who are suspected of having coexisting psychosis.

Physical healthcare

Monitor the physical health of adults and young people with psychosis and coexisting substance misuse, as described in NICE's recommendations on [psychosis and schizophrenia](#). Pay particular attention to the impact of alcohol and drugs (prescribed and non-prescribed) on physical health.

Monitor the person at least once a year or more frequently if there is a significant physical illness or there is a risk of physical illness because of substance misuse.

6 Secondary care mental health services

[See Coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse: assessment and management in healthcare settings / Secondary care mental health services for adults and young people with coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse](#)

7 Substance misuse services

Assessment

Offer adults and young people with psychosis and coexisting substance misuse attending substance misuse services a comprehensive, multidisciplinary mental health assessment in addition to an assessment of their substance misuse.

Joint working

Healthcare professionals in substance misuse services should be present at Care Programme Approach meetings for adults and young people with psychosis and coexisting substance misuse within their service who are also receiving treatment and support in other health services.

Specialist substance misuse services should provide advice, consultation and training for healthcare professionals in adult mental health services and CAMHS.

Specialist substance misuse services should work closely with secondary care mental health services to develop local protocols derived from this guideline. The agreed local protocols should set out responsibilities and processes for assessment, referral, treatment and shared care across the whole care pathway.

8 Inpatient mental health services

[See Coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse: assessment and management in healthcare settings / Inpatient mental health services for adults and young people with coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse](#)

9 Community health and social care services

[See Coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse: community health and social care services](#)

10 Patient and service user experience

NICE has produced recommendations on:

- [Patient experience](#)
- [Service user experience](#)

Glossary

CAMHS

Child and adolescent mental health services

Significant other

refers not just to a partner but also to friends and any person the service user considers to be important to them

Significant others

refers not just to a partner but also to friends and any person the service user considers to be important to them

Tier 1

CAMHS Tier 1 refers to primary care and educational settings

Tier 2

CAMHS Tier 2 refers to primary care

Tier 3

CAMHS Tier 3 refers to community mental health

Tier 4

CAMHS Tier 4 refers to specialist inpatient and regional services

Sources

[Coexisting severe mental illness \(psychosis\) and substance misuse: assessment and management in healthcare settings \(2011\) NICE guideline CG120](#)

Your responsibility

The guidance in this pathway represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Those working in the NHS, local authorities, the wider public, voluntary and community sectors and the private sector should take it into account when carrying out their professional, managerial or voluntary duties. Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Contact NICE

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
Level 1A, City Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4BT

www.nice.org.uk

nice@nice.org.uk

0845 003 7781