

Alcohol Care Teams

North Lanarkshire ADP Alcohol Summit

2 April 2025

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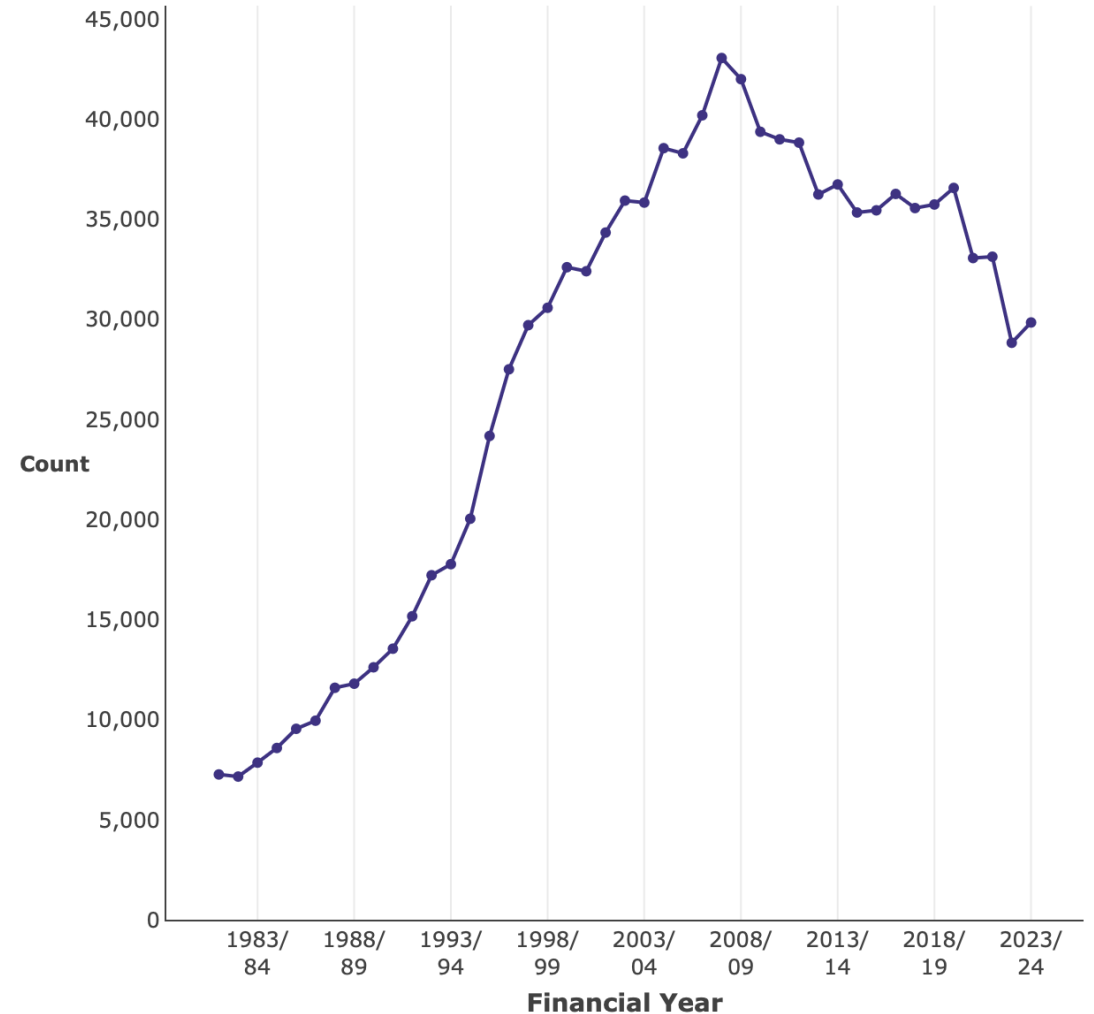
SHAAP



Scottish Health Action
on Alcohol Problems

Alcohol in acute hospitals

- 30,000 admissions per year in Scotland
- 6,000 alcohol-related liver disease
- 23,000 mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol
- 4% of in-patients have alcohol dependence (v 1.4% in general population)
- Figures do not include the thousands of alcohol-related A&E attendances



PHS Alcohol Dashboard, 2025
NHS England & NHS Improvement, 2019

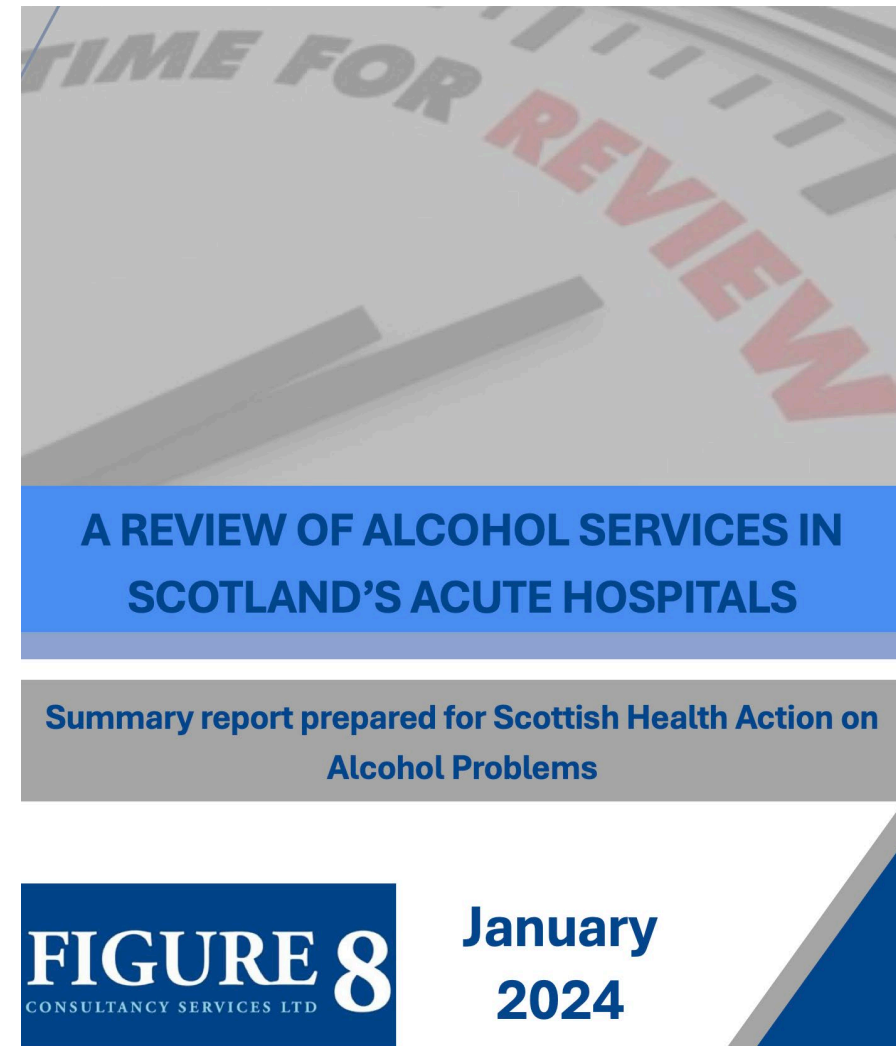
Alcohol-related Liver Disease: Guidance for Good Practice



SHAAP, 2017

Action 2

Patients admitted to hospital with alcohol-related liver failure should be managed immediately, in accordance with national guidelines, be reviewed by a physician with expertise in liver disease and be engaged with an alcohol treatment service prior to discharge.



SHAAP, 2024

What is an Alcohol Care Team?

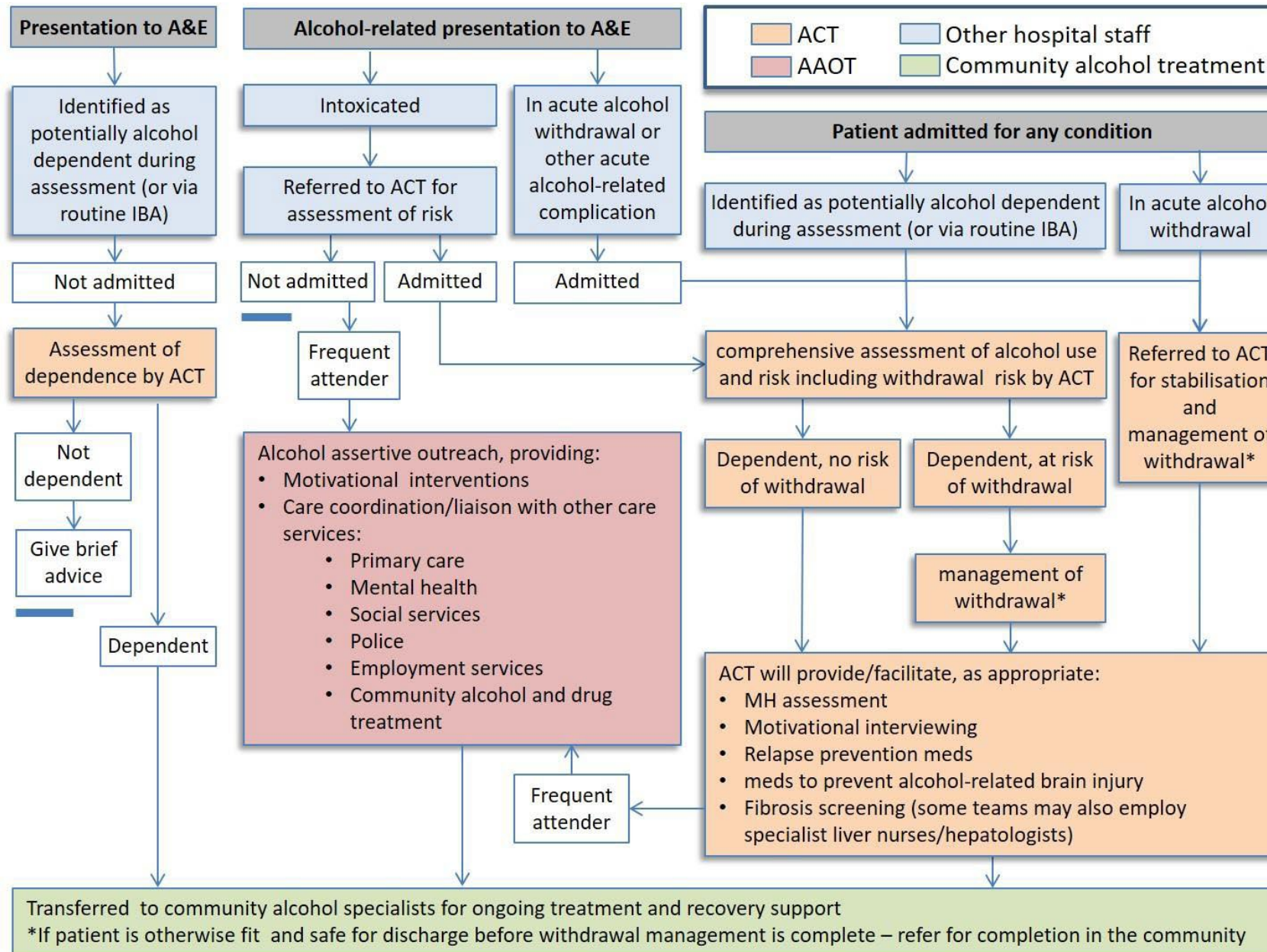
- Multi-disciplinary team, led by senior clinician
- Integrated alcohol treatment pathway across primary, secondary and community care
- Coordinated alcohol policies for emergency departments/acute medical units
- 7-day alcohol specialist nurse service
- Addiction and liaison psychiatry services
- Alcohol assertive outreach team
- Consultant hepatologists and gastroenterologists
- Quality metrics, indicators and audit
- Workforce planning, training, accreditation

Moriarty et al. Frontline Gastroenterology, 2019

Alcohol Care Teams: Core service Descriptor. NHS England & NHS Improvement 2019



Role of ACTs in the pathway for patients with AUD in acute hospitals



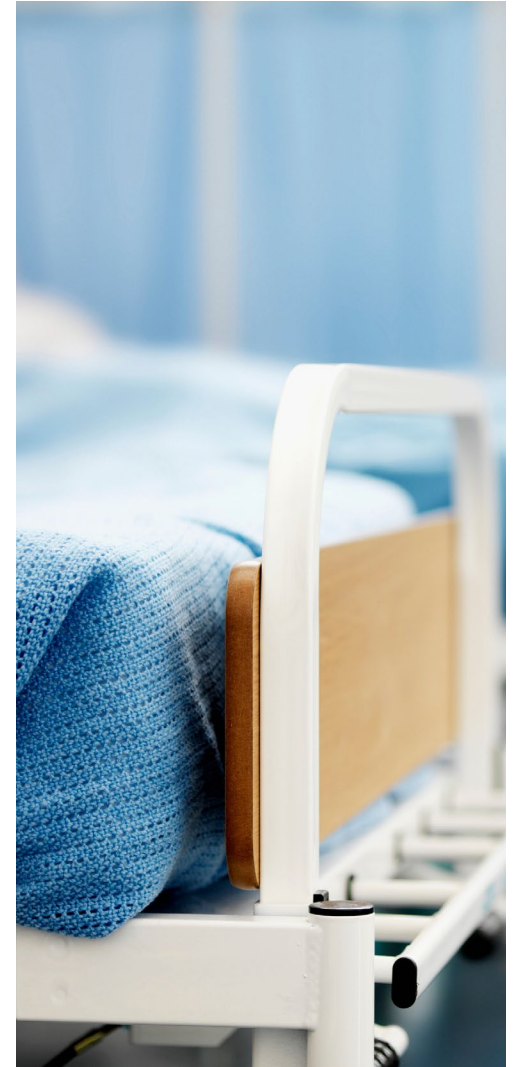
PHE, 2019

with thanks to Prof
Colin Drummond

What is the impact of ACTs?

- Reduce readmissions and length of stay
- High scores for savings, quality and evidence of change in NICE practical case study
- Return of £3.85 for every £1 spent
- In patients with ArLD, reduce reported consumption and improve GGT

NICE, 2016
Ryder et al Clin Med 2010



What's happening in Scotland?



Part 1. Online survey

Responses from 20 of Scotland's
32 acute hospitals

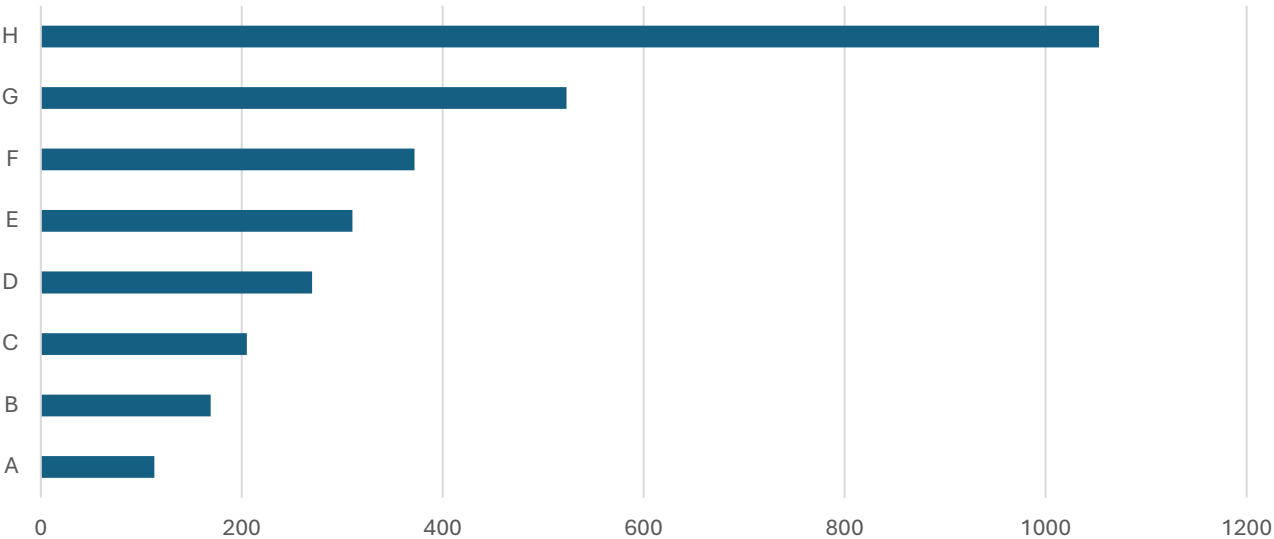
Part 2. Semi-structured interviews

n = 22 from 12 of Scotland's 14
Health Boards



In the 8 responding Scottish hospitals with over 100 beds:

number of beds per alcohol nurse



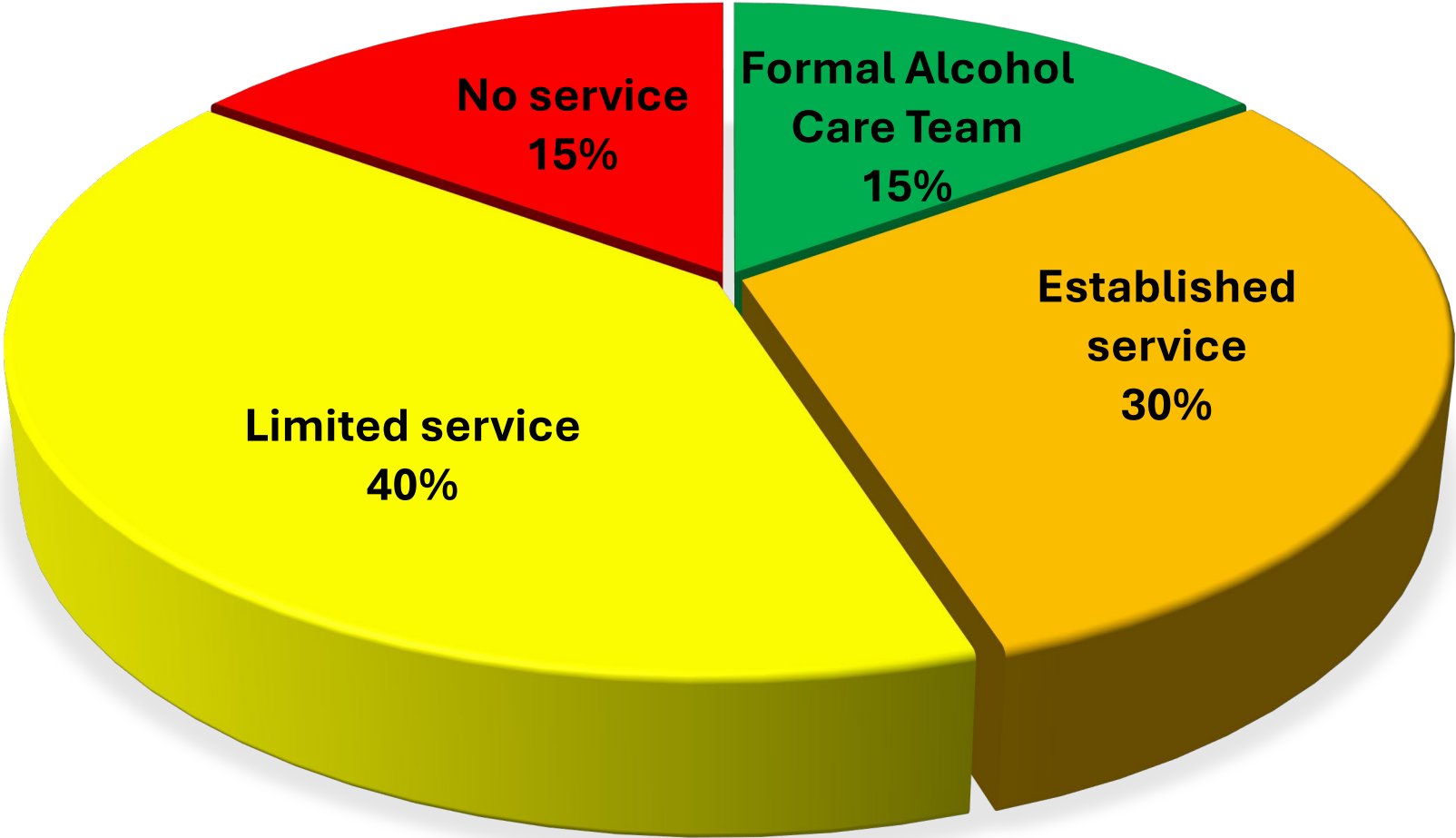
17/20 (85%) of Scottish hospitals have an alcohol nurse (comparable to England: 83% in 2016) but huge variation in actual capacity

hospital	no. of beds	no. of alcohol nurses (WTE)	number of beds per alcohol nurse
A	227	2	113
B	678	4	169
C	904	4.4	205
D	647	2.4	270
E	434	1.4	310
F	929	2.5	372
G	785	1.5	523
H	313	0.3	1053

Review of Alcohol Services in Scotland’s Acute Hospitals. SHAAP/Figure8, January 2024

Tier category
We have a formally designated Alcohol Care Team [ACT].
We have an established service specifically targeting problem drinkers which has not been formally designated as an ACT.
We have a limited/occasional/intermittent/ad hoc service for problem drinkers.
We have no service specifically for problem drinkers.

HOW HOSPITALS DESCRIBE THEIR OWN ALCOHOL SERVICE



Review of Alcohol Services in Scotland’s Acute Hospitals.
SHAAP/Figure8, January 2024

How does the service operate?

Are all admissions screened for AUD?

Y=6, N=6, DK=7

How are patients referred? 'Automatically'?

1/20

'Actively'?

9/20

'Passively'?

14/20

Are patients with AUD screened for liver disease?

Y=6, N=5, DK=8

How is the service structured?

Responsible department?

psych 10, acute medicine 2, gastro 1, gastro + psych 1

Designated alcohol lead? 4/17 (66/116 in England in 2016)

Funding?

50% ADP, 50% variety of secondary care budgets



What's happening in Scotland?

- Disparity and lack of standardisation in screening and management of care for in-patients with AUD including people with ArLD
- Inconsistencies in post-discharge follow-up
- Staffing shortages and infrastructure challenges
- Gaps in policies and practices
- Fragmented nature of alcohol-related healthcare provisions



Review of Alcohol Services in Scotland's Acute Hospitals.
SHAAP/Figure 8, January 2024

What about North Lanarkshire?

- 2421 alcohol hospital admissions in 2023-24: 30% above national average
- No ACT survey info for North Lanarkshire hospitals
- Hairmyres:
 - 1.4 WTE specialist alcohol nurses = 310 beds per nurse
 - Patients with AUD automatically referred to alcohol service
 - No routine screening for ArLD
 - Post-discharge follow-up phone call



What is SHAAP doing about ACTs?

- Drafting Consensus statement
- SHAAP + RCPsych + RCN



- :
- ACTs should be detailed part of future National Service Specification
 - Standards for alcohol treatment in hospitals are required
 - Patient pathways should be clear and formalised
 - Education bodies for healthcare professionals should provide basic education on alcohol
 - Every IJB and ADP should establish a strategic group to oversee needs assessment in relation to alcohol treatment services

Questions for you

- Would an ACT align with North Lanarkshire ADP's strategic priorities?
- Would an ACT make a difference in North Lanarkshire?
- Is there scope to develop one?
- What would help?

