

Overdose Risk Assessment Checklist

Several factors can increase an individual's risk of drug overdose. Ask the following questions as part of routine supervision to help community supervision officers determine risk factors that increase an individual's chances of overdose. The higher the score ranges, the greater the risk for overdose an individual has. These questions should be asked on a regular basis.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- If the answer to a question is "yes" circle the score. If the answer is "no," do not record a score for that question.
- Make notes related to any answer as needed.
- Add up the total score to determine the level of overdose risk.

<i>Risk factor</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1. Current heroin user	1	
2. Current injector	2	
3. Has started injecting in last six months	3	
4. Current methadone user (prescribed) (street)	1 2	
5. Is not on supervised consumption	2	
6. Also drinks alcohol	2	
7. Also uses benzodiazepines (e.g. Diazepam)	2	

<i>Risk factor</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Notes</i>
8. Dual use of heroin and crack	2	
9. Has been in prison, hospital or residential drugs treatment in preceding month	3	
10. Has ever overdosed (but not in past year)	1	
11. Has overdosed once in past year	2	
12. Has overdosed two or more times in past year	3	
13. Has been using for more than five years	1	
14. Is using large amounts to get a buzz	1	
15. Finds it harder to get a buzz	2	
16. Enjoys a really big 'gouch' or 'nod'	3	
17. Prone to low mood or depression	3	
18. Tends to use alone	3	

<i>Risk factor</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Notes</i>
19. Has health problems (e.g. hepatitis, respiratory problems)	2	
20. Has erratic patterns of use (different dealers, drugs, amounts, routes, combinations)	2	
TOTAL		

<i>Score Range</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Scores less than 5	Low risk: while there is always a risk of overdose, the person has a relatively low risk profile. Work can still be done to further reduce risk factors. Scores of 5 to 10 Moderate risk: a number of risk factors exist making overdose more likely.
Scores 10+	High risk: resident is much more likely to overdose and this will need to be reflected in both the type of housing offered and the interventions used to reduce risk. Address all risk factors, especially high risk activities; OD training for all staff and residents, harm reduction advice to residents.
Score 15+	Very high risk: the likelihood of an imminent overdose is high. Hopefully this high score can be reduced through interventions. A high level of support, staff diligence and training will be needed to reduce risk of fatality.



REFERENCES

- Turning Point Overdose Risk Assessment Tool . (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.turningpointrecovery.com/pdf/TPRS_ORAT.pdf