

ATOD Specialist Nursing Practice

Advanced Specialist Standards for ATOD Nurses

Overview

Scope of Nursing Practice

The scope of practice is defined within a legislative and regulatory framework and communicates to others the roles, competencies and professional accountability of the nurse. The practice and competence of an individual nurse is influenced by a variety of factors including their education, experience, expertise and interests, as well as the context of their practice. Therefore definitions of role and scope of practice need to reflect what is distinctly nursing, whilst communicating the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of health care. (*NBSA, A Scope of Practice Decision Making Tool, March 2006*).

To enable nurses to provide safe practice requirements, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) have developed a range of Standards, competencies, code of ethics and a code of conduct, endorsed by each State, Territory Nursing Regulation Authority.

ATOD Specialist Nursing Standards

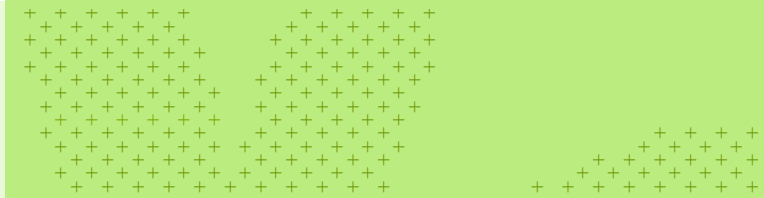
Standards within the ATOD specialist nursing field complement and build on the Standards already expected of all registered nurses, recognising the specialist area in which the nurse works.



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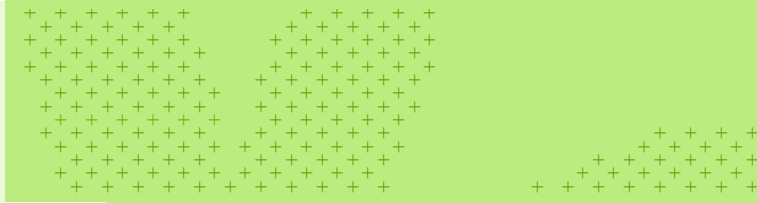




Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug (ATOD) Specialist Nursing Standards (Foundation to Advanced Specialist)

These Standards reflect the continuum of nursing practice expected of an ATOD specialist registered nurse. They move from Foundation to Advanced Specialist Level. They are a developmental and inspirational tool, and not intended for managing performance.

| Foundation Knowledge/Skills: The Foundation Level nurse: | Specialist Knowledge/Skills: The Specialist Level nurse: | Advanced Specialist Knowledge/Skills: The Advanced Specialist Level nurse: |
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| <p>Actively contributes to the clinical management of clients/family, within the multi-disciplinary team.</p> | <p>Has an in-depth understanding of ATOD practice/policies/clinical procedures and their application to a range of contexts.</p> | <p>Undertakes a systems approach to care and can apply and/or provide advice on policies/clinical procedures and principles along the continuum of care, across multiple populations and environments.</p> |
| <p>NURSING PRACTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the patterns of ATOD use and related problems and range of interventions in the clinical setting. • Understands the pharmacology and pharmacokinetics of commonly used ATODs and relevant treatment medications. • Refers clients to relevant services, when they have identified indicators of a possible condition requiring medical assessment and treatment or social assistance. • Understands that ATOD related problems can coexist with mental and/or physical disorders (multi co-morbidities). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies a depth and breadth of knowledge and expertise required to respond to the complex needs of a diverse range of clients in varied contexts/environments. • Has a sound understanding of the epidemiology related to ATOD issues. • Applies their knowledge and expertise to respond to community needs. • Contributes to the practice of others and improved client outcomes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands and utilises the social/health service systems, to benefit the client/families care and the population at risk. • Demonstrates in practice, knowledge of the pharmacology of substance use, their interventions, in relation to presenting health issues. • Applies research findings to education and practice. • Provides leadership, develops opportunities for best practice of others through review and uptake of evidence based clinical guidelines, policy, procedures and practices. |



Foundation Knowledge/Skills:

NURSING PRACTICE Contd.

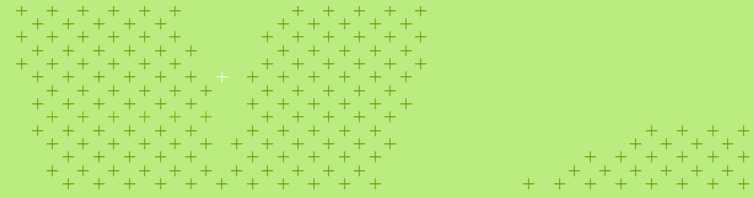
- Develops understanding of the criteria for ATOD dependence as diagnosed by DSMIV and ICD10.
- Has knowledge of the spectrum of ATOD patterns of use and related problems.
- Develops a breadth of understanding and expertise in engagement, screening, assessment and clinical management of common presentations to ATOD clinical services which are evidence based e.g.
 - Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy
 - Clinical screening, assessment and monitoring tools
 - Modes of treatment
 - Psychological and social impacts
- Is able to develop expertise to build client self efficacy and provide the necessary support, motivation, knowledge and skills of their clients, so the client can, where possible, achieve effective self management, relapse prevention and maximum recovery.
- Understands the range of service delivery models, aimed at the prevention, early intervention, treatment and client recovery.
- Adapts their practice to ensure culturally respectful nursing care to diverse groups.

Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- Has a sound understanding of the impact and complexity of co-morbidity - ATOD disorders coexisting with mental health disorders and/or physical injury, varying acute and chronic diseases and the ability to respond effectively.
- Acts to ensure that co-morbidities are identified, treated, followed-up and well managed.
- Role models to and educates others on how to practice in a culturally respectful and inclusive manner.
- Demonstrates the use of particular counselling skills that assist clients to make informed positive decisions regarding their ATOD related problems.

Advanced Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- Through consultancy, offers their varied expertise to a range of health and other relevant professionals, community workers and specialist groups across sectors.



Foundation Knowledge/Skills:

ETHICAL/LEGAL

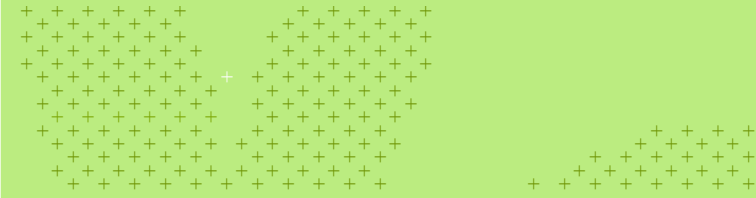
- Can understand and articulate the common ethical dilemmas which impact on ATOD specialist nursing practice.
- Ensures all clients are treated in an ethical and respectful manner in the context of challenging health and behavioural problems.
- Has a sound understanding of key legislation and its relevance to ATOD practice e.g.
 - Controlled Substances Act
 - Road Traffic Act
- Can apply the ethical principles of the client's right to receive or refuse treatment.
- Advocates for special needs groups to enable them to receive non judgemental care.
- Has an awareness of confidentiality issues relating to a client's criminal activities associated with their ATOD problems and episode of care.

Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- Can make an ethical judgement that upholds the client's rights to a duty of care and having their health needs met, versus the nurse's responsibility to take action in the best interests of others.

Advanced Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- In the context of ATOD related problems, provides consultancy on complex legal and ethical issues.
- Creates the therapeutic environment and upholds expectations that the appropriate Standards and codes of conduct are met by self and others.



Foundation Knowledge/Skills:

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

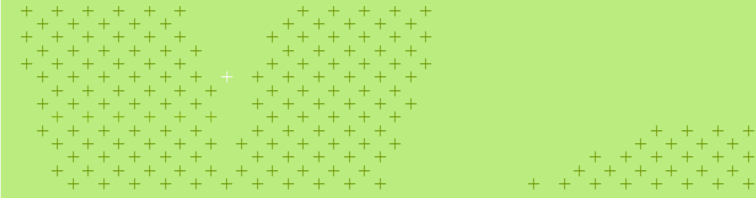
- Actively contributes to decision making regarding client care, within the multi-disciplinary team e.g.
 - Planning, delivering and evaluating care
 - Case conferences

Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

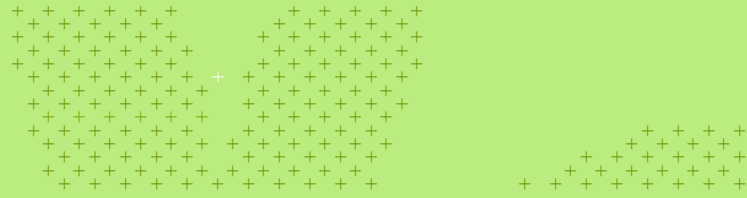
- Initiates collaborative practice with a range of health/welfare professionals across sectors in relation to:
 - Assessment
 - Care, planning and intervention
 - Case reviews
 - Shared care/coordinated care
 - Advocacy
 - Referral and follow-up
- Develops strong networks to support collaborative care to address ATOD / co-morbidity issues.
- Consults on routine nursing management of ATOD problems and related practices.
- Advocates for clients and their family to have appropriate access to services, treatments and support.

Advanced Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- Confidently uses, contributes to and engages in clinical and public health research applicable to ATOD nursing and the field in general and demonstrates this in collaborative care.
- Advocates for at risk populations adversely affected by risky ATOD use, related health and social problems.
- Consults and collaborates with a wide range of key stakeholders to address the social determinants that contribute to ATOD use and related problems.



| Foundation Knowledge/Skills: | Specialist Knowledge/Skills: | Advanced Specialist Knowledge/Skills: |
|---|---|--|
| <p>SERVICE SYSTEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the need for ongoing monitoring, evaluation and application of quality improvements to their clinical practice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and quality improvement processes for the development of nursing practice and the service system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses data from monitoring, evaluation and quality improvement for the development of nursing practice and the service system. • Audits and reviews changes made to ensure the desired Standards and service system have been achieved and maintained. |
| <p>POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is aware of key aspects of the ATOD health/care system e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies • Legislation • State/organisational strategies and priorities • Understands the relationships between ATOD health care and other areas such as Mental Health, Primary Health and Community Services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to practice the key principles of ATOD national/state/organisational strategies, priorities and policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows leadership by identifying a need for and developing policies/clinical procedures. • Contributes to national/state/organisational policy development for particular populations/issues, by applying their nursing knowledge and expertise. |



Foundation Knowledge/Skills:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Confidently provides information on ATOD issues to students.
- Further develops their specialist knowledge and skills by attending seminars, conferences, workshops and engaging in self-directed learning activities.
- Applies new knowledge and skills into everyday evidence based practice.

Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- Contributes to and applies new nursing knowledge to practice by:
 - Facilitating professional development of others
 - Implementing practices informed by the literature and expert practitioners
 - Presenting evidence based practice issues and activities to professional meetings such as seminars, conferences and workshops
- Presents relevant and accurate evidence based information to the community through education, information and quality resources.

Advanced Specialist Knowledge/Skills:

- Advises and contributes to undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational training curricula, curricula review and delivery of quality staff development programs.
- Mentors new nursing ATOD specialists, students, academics and nursing colleagues from other or varied fields of practice.
- Can speak with authority on ATOD nursing practice, education and research related issues at professional seminars, conferences and workshops.