Your Challenge: Using resources more effectively to address the unique problems of each client.

An Evidence-Based Approach: Use ASI data to develop customized treatment plans and to monitor outcomes.

Where to Start: Get the tools and training resources you need online at no cost from the NIDA/SAMHSA Blending Initiative.

Treatment Planning M.A.T.R.S.—measurable, attainable, time limited, realistic, and specific—is a package of tools and training resources that can help substance abuse treatment providers transform required “paperwork” into clinically useful information. The package shows providers how to use data collected via the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) to assess patients’ substance abuse, to develop effective treatment plans, and to monitor outcomes. ASI data can be used to ensure that treatment objectives are measurable, attainable, time limited, realistic, and specific.

“Treatment programs are choking on data collection requirements . . . [and] almost none of the data collected are used in clinical decision-making or program planning—it is just paperwork.”
—McLellan et al., 2003

The ASI: What It Can Do for You

The ASI’s semi-structured interview format (1) enables clinicians to gather required information, (2) helps the client and clinician identify problems and agree on goals, objectives, and interventions, (3) provides information useful in justifying the need for continued services, and (4) provides a basis for documentation and discharge planning.

As stated in Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide, “To be effective, treatment must address the individual’s drug abuse and any associated medical, psychological, social, vocational, and legal problems.” Practitioners can use ASI to match services to clients’ individual problems, which helps improve retention in treatment. Clients “whose problems are identified at admission and then receive services that are matched to those problems, stay in treatment longer.”

The ASI can help you
- Identify client problems not addressed by in-house services;
- Quantify the severity of client problems or needs over time;
- Provide a quantifiable measure of program success;
- Document unmet client service needs; and
- Capture the data needed in reports for TEDS, CARF, JCAHO, grants management, managed care, and other stakeholders.

Visit www.attcnetwork.org/asi for more information.

www.attcnetwork.org/asi
How This Resource Can Improve Your Practice

Treatment Planning M.A.T.R.S. was designed to help practitioners understand and adopt evidence-based assessment, planning, and evaluation practices. This training and resource package

- Shows you how to use ASI data for clinical applications and program evaluation;
- Identifies differences between program-driven and individualized treatment planning processes;
- Addresses the process of treatment planning;
- Defines basic guidelines and legal considerations in documenting client status; and
- Provides tools and resources to help you include information from the ASI in your documentation activities.

Tools Included in the Package

Treatment Planning M.A.T.R.S. is available online and includes a variety of research-based resources, such as

- A 6-hour training program supported by a step-by-step training manual.
- A PowerPoint presentation reviewing the research and history of the ASI and its applications in treatment planning.
- Information about Drug Evaluation Network System (DENS) software.
- Treatment planning handouts, forms, and exercises.
- Much more!

References


Accelerating the dissemination of research-based drug abuse treatment into clinical practice is a priority for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and represents the core mission of the Blending Initiative. NIDA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) joined together to create the Blending Initiative in 2001 to reduce the gap that exists between the publication of research results and impact on treatment delivery. This initiative incorporates collaboration between clinicians, scientists, and experienced trainers to catalyze the creation of user-friendly treatment tools and products and facilitate the adoption of research-based interventions into front-line clinical settings. Through this initiative, NIDA and SAMHSA’s Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTCs) disseminate treatment and training products based on results from studies conducted by the National Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network (CTN) as well as other NIDA-supported research.

Get the Products and Additional Resources from:

National Institute on Drug Abuse: http://www.drugabuse.gov/blending-initiative

SAMHSA ATTC: http://www.attcnetwork.org/blendinginitiative