

Rapid Response Hospital Referrals to DASSA Outpatient Services: Trial period 1 February to 30 June 2021

Hospital Emergency Department (ED) or Acute Medical Unit (AMU) can be provided rapid access to an appointment at Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) metropolitan sites.

Rapid Response appointments will be provided within 48 hours wherever possible. The aim of these appointments is to provide quick access to an alcohol and other drug (AOD) assessment and treatment through early engagement post Emergency Department presentation.

Instructions to hospital staff to book a rapid response appointment at DASSA:

During office hours (08.00-16.00 M-F), hospital staff can contact the DASSA Consultation Liaison Service (CLS) to facilitate a referral. At Lyell McEwan Hospital Service the CLS team can also be contacted within these hours on Saturday and Sunday as well as Monday to Friday.

After hours, or when CLS staff are not available, hospital staff can contact the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) on telephone **7087 1744**. Hospital staff should advise they are calling for a rapid response DASSA appointment.

The ADIS phone line is available between 08.30 - 22.00. After these hours a voice message can be left with staff member name and contact number of the ward, as well as patient name, and ADIS will call back during operating hours.

ADIS staff will check the patient meets the booking criteria outlined below. If criteria is met, ADIS will provide an appointment time. Hospital staff need to provide the appointment information to the patient. Please note that ADIS will need to ask you some questions about the patient's history of use to ensure that they are suitable for a DASSA referral.

Booking criteria for Outpatient Services rapid response appointment:

- > Voluntary engagement
- > Substance dependent
 - Provide the reason for referral, drug of concern, and other key issues if known (e.g. history, recent overdose, IV use)
- > Medically and psychologically stable (suitable for hospital discharge, not meeting criteria for inpatient transfer to Withdrawal Services).
 - Consider: will the person continue using alcohol/substances on discharge; if they have ceased use, are they suitable for outpatient management or do they need to be retained in hospital for withdrawal or transferred to inpatient withdrawal unit; if required do they have withdrawal medication on discharge (contact DACAS if clinical information required).

- > Provide information on any significant behavioural issues or opioid dependence (appointments may need to be booked during office hours if behavioural concerns are evident).

After hours appointments are not available for clients who are opioid dependent, but an early appointment will still be available.

Hospitals should follow the current established pathway for transfer to DASSA Withdrawal Services. Patients at high risk from withdrawal are not suitable for referral to outpatient services. You must tell ADIS if there is any apparent risk. If patients attend outpatient services who are at risk from withdrawal they will be referred back to hospital or inpatient services.

Once the person is assessed through the Rapid Response process, they may require ongoing treatment at DASSA and will be booked a subsequent appointment if needed. If the client is deemed more suitable for a non DASSA service an external referral may be made.

Rapid response bookings are not available for non-urgent referrals such as transplant assessments, mixed pain and prescription opioid dependence, or general discharge referrals. Such referrals can be booked through the usual channels.

If clinical advice is required about a client treatment call DACAS **7087 1742**.

Refer to attached Rapid Response flowchart.

For more information

Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS)
Specialist support and advice for health professionals
Telephone: (08) 7087 1742
8:30am - 10pm 7 days/week including public holidays
HealthDACASEnquiries@sa.gov.au



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