

Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ) completion at ARCH



Central and North West London
NHS Foundation Trust

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Introduction

The Addiction Recovery Community Hillingdon (ARCH) is a specialist treatment service, providing a range of interventions for clients misusing alcohol. Clients who are dependent on alcohol are assisted with detoxification which can be done in either a community or inpatient setting. NICE guidelines suggest that all adults who misuse alcohol should have a SADQ completed as it helps determine the severity of dependence and contributes to decisions surrounding whether a patient requires inpatient assisted withdrawal. An audit completed in November 2020 showed that between June to October 2020 only 25% of patients referred for an inpatient or community detox has a SADQ score documented in their notes.

Methods

To improve this result, a driver diagram with multiple interventions was formulated (figure 1). Firstly, a presentation was delivered to the MDT highlighting the relevance and importance of completing a SADQ score for clients misusing alcohol. Furthermore, posters (figure 2) were put up in the staff office rooms and copies of SADQ forms were made readily available. Finally an alcohol assessment proforma was created which had a specific section to record patient's SADQ score on.

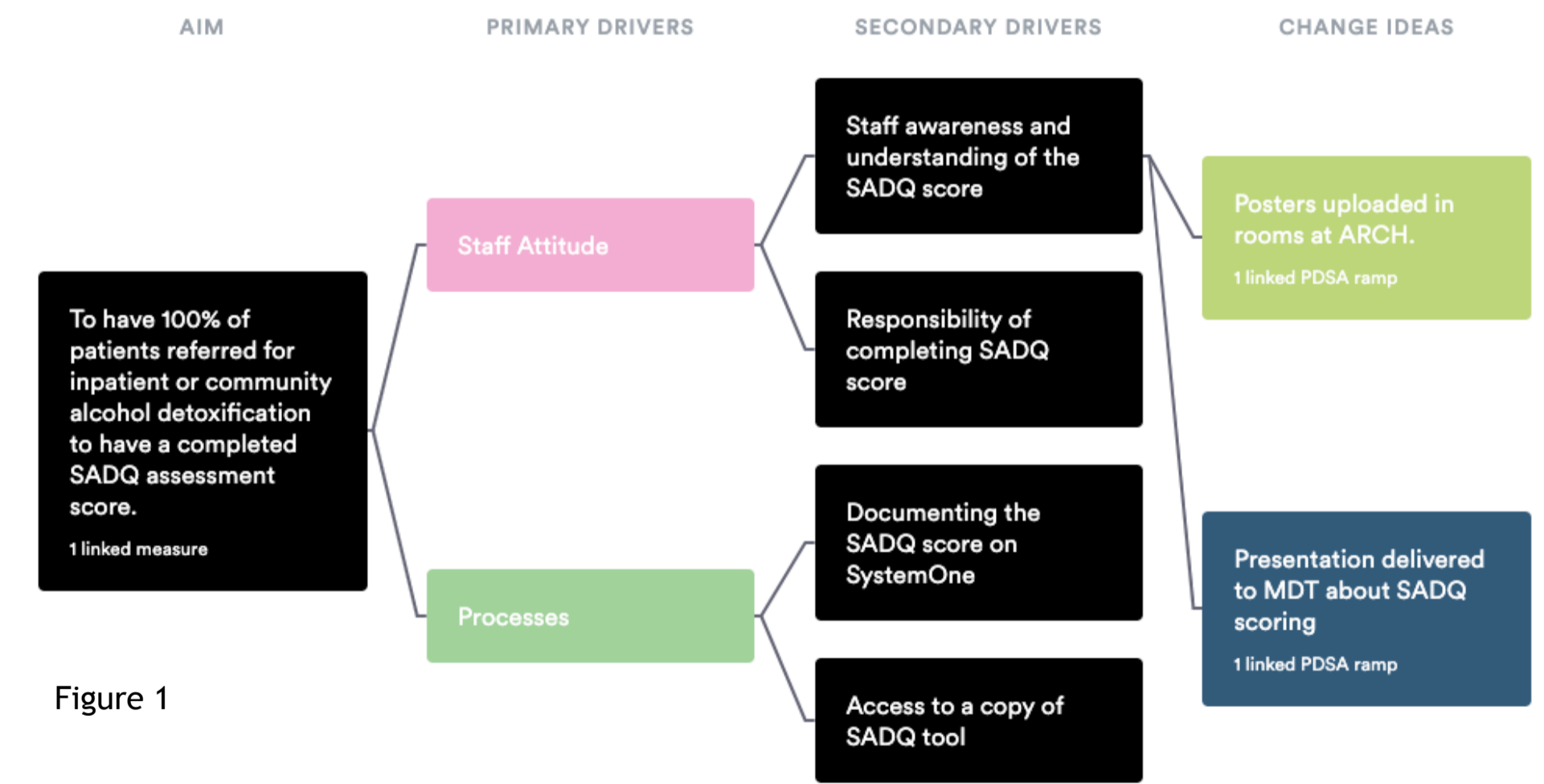


Figure 1

Figure 2

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Referring a patient for alcohol detox?

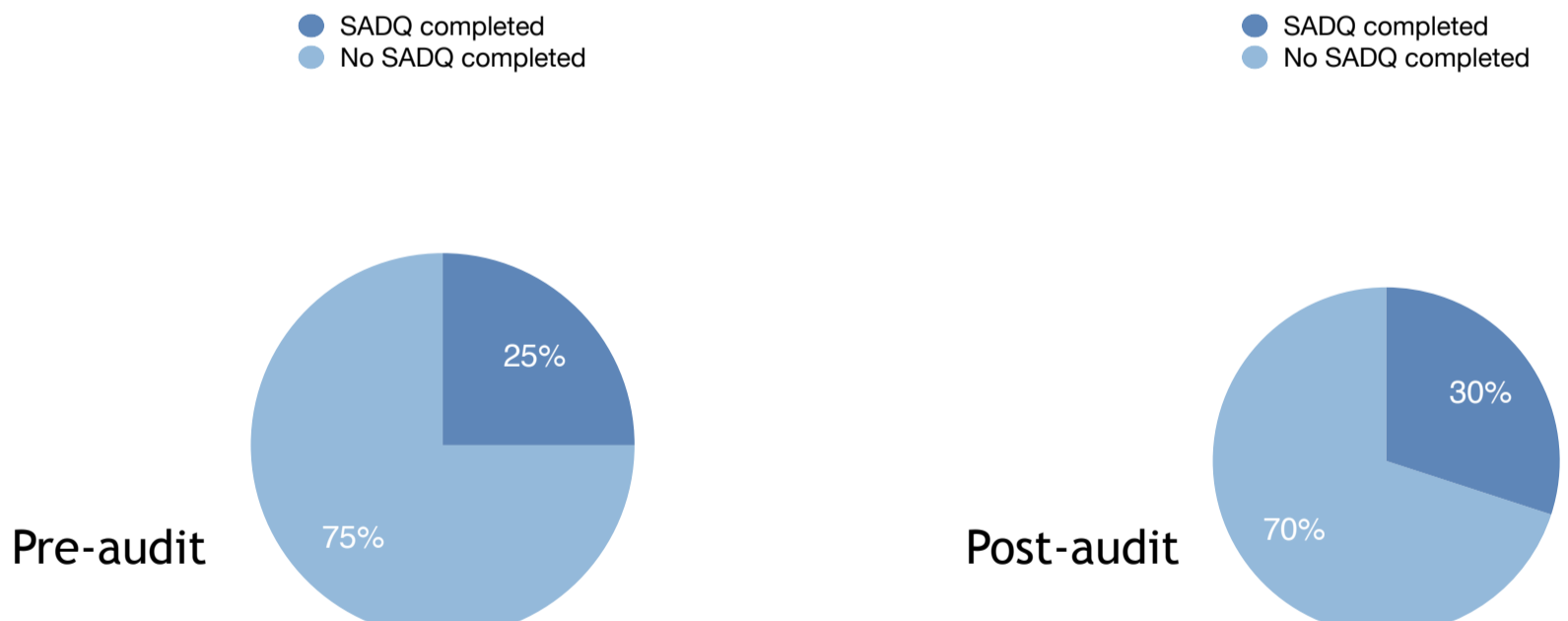
Make sure you've completed their SADQ Score!

Don't make us sad and complete the SADQ!

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Results

30% of SADQ assessments were completed from November 2020-January 2021 for patients, including a 100% rate for community detox's in November & December showing an improvement from the previous audit. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was significantly reduced number of referrals for detoxifications.



Conclusions

Our audit has shown an increase in the completion of SADQ scores for alcohol dependent clients following multiple interventions. There is still greater scope for improvement, and we will continue to re-audit this and consider whether further interventions need to be put in place.

