

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

This component links to:

- Child Protection
- Family Violence
- Child Injury Prevention
- Parenting Support
- Behaviour Management
- Breastfeeding
- Nutrition
- Smokefree Environment
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Maternal Mental Health.

Alcohol and substance abuse is implicated in intentional and unintentional injuries. This includes child abuse and family violence.

Age(s) of child

For parents and caregivers, family and whānau of children birth to 5 years - information and anticipatory guidance should be provided in accordance with the Tamariki Ora Schedule and at other times in response to identified needs.

Purpose

- To reduce the prevalence and impact of illicit drug use
- To identify the parents/caregivers experiencing drug and alcohol problems and provide early referral.

Personnel

All providers delivering the Well Child/Tamariki Ora National Schedule - this includes the Lead Maternity Carer (obstetrician, midwife or general practitioner), or Well Child Provider team.

Recommended procedure

- Provide care in a culturally appropriate manner
- Take a detailed drug and alcohol history at first contact and relevant contacts after this
- Document the extent of the need
- Plan care, and incorporate family in decision-making
- Provide culturally appropriate support and information on alcohol and substance abuse
- Facilitate access to any services the family requires
- If concerned about the safety of the children, discuss with senior practitioner or management and refer to the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services
- Assess family need for information and support
- Document findings and health gains identified including in the *Well Child-Tamariki Ora Health Book*
- Plan care, with family involvement and their active participation
- Facilitate access to specific support services as necessary
- Use appropriate referral pathways eg, Strengthening Families, Family Start.

Educational preparation needs to include:

- fetal alcohol syndrome
- effect of alcohol and drug abuse on family functioning, parenting and breastfeeding
- addictive behaviour
- behavioural change management
- assessment and counselling skills
- knowledge of local alcohol and drug services and support networks.

Referral pathways

- General practitioner
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Local community support agencies.

Resources

Written and other resources produced by the Ministry of Health, available from public health service providers and www.healthed.govt.nz; resources from ALAC and Alcoholics Anonymous; other local resources.