



Unified Assessment
Aseiad Unedig

Staff Information Leaflet



Creating a Unified and Fair System for
Assessing and Managing Care

Partner Agencies

- Age Concern Morgannwg
- Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust
(Learning Disability Directorate - Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff geographic area)
- Interlink Rhondda Cynon Taff
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board
- North Glamorgan NHS Trust
- Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Health Board
- Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

Introduction

The Welsh Assembly Government has issued guidance across Wales on the Unified Assessment and Care Management Process. This is a revised approach to assessing and planning care in order to meet the health and social care needs of the service user.

From April 2005 the Voluntary Sector, the NHS and Social Services across Wales will be responsible for implementing this system. In the Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff area, Unified Assessment will be implemented for all adults by 1 April 2005.

What is its aim?

Its aim is to ensure that agencies take a holistic approach (the need for the assessment to take a broad view of a person's assessed needs within the context of their health, social and family networks) to assessing and managing care and work together so that:

- Assessment (the process whereby the needs of an individual are identified and their impact on independence, daily functioning and quality of life is evaluated) and care planning is person-centred (where professionals work together in the best interests of the individual as defined by the person or those close to them) and proportionate to need.
- Services are co-ordinated and integrated at all levels.
- Duplication of information, assessments and paperwork is minimised with advantages for individual, practitioners and services.
- Eligibility criteria are fairer and standardised across Wales.

Who will it affect?

Unified Assessment and Care Management concerns all staff working within the voluntary sector, health and social care settings.

What does the process mean in practice?

The purpose of assessment is to evaluate the effect of an individual's needs on his or her independence, daily functioning and quality of life so that appropriate action can be planned.

Assessment should:-

- Identify needs of an individual.
- Identify the options that are available to service users.
- Identify the outcomes required from any help that is provided.
- Enable service users to understand the basis on which the decision is made.

What does the process involve?

The process involves different levels of assessment depending on an individual's needs. The individual's needs will determine what type of assessment is carried out and by whom.

The types of assessment

There are four different types of assessment.

1. Contact Assessment

This is the first contact between an individual and a health or social care staff member. The aim is to collect basic personal information, identify the nature of the problem and explore any wider social care issues.

2. Overview Assessment

This type of assessment is undertaken where more intensive help is required. At this point, professionals will be guided by their judgement and service users' wishes.

Who undertakes the contact and overview assessment?

Job types and grades have been agreed. This information is available to Unified Assessment leads in all agencies in the area. These assessments will be carried out by appropriately trained staff from either the health or social care setting.

3. Specialist Assessment

Specialist assessments will be undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced staff and can include many different professionals e.g. nurse, occupational therapist, social worker.

4. Comprehensive Assessment

This type of assessment is completed where the level of support and treatment necessary is likely to be prolonged, including permanent admission to a care home, nursing home placements, Continuing Health Care or substantial packages of home care.

Who undertakes the comprehensive assessment?

At this stage a range of professionals are involved in the process. It is important for the various specialist assessments to be co-ordinated, drawn together and interpreted to enable a care plan to be devised which best meets the needs of the individuals. This decision is made with the service user, carer and family.

Training and Education

A training programme is currently being established. There will be different levels of training provided for different staff. Staff will be notified as to the level of training they need to undertake to ensure compliance with the process.

Documentation

Documentation is currently being reviewed. When it becomes available, you will be informed and trained as necessary.

Who do I contact for further information?

More information is contained in the Welsh Assembly Government publication "The Core Essentials of Creating a Unified and Fair System for Assessing and Managing Care".

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subisocialpolicysocialservices/content/mangingcircular-e.htm>

Alternatively you can contact your agency representative on the Unified Assessment Steering Committee.

Normal agency procedures governing Information Sharing, Eligibility Criteria and Appeals Processes should be followed.

Unified Assessment Steering Committee Representatives

Agency	Name	Title	Phone
Pontypridd & Rhondda NHS Trust	Graham Walker	Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality	01443 443301
Age Concern Morgannwg	Anne Higgins	Chief Officer	01443 493231 /485505
Interlink	Ann Philpott	Health and Social Care Facilitator	01443 485337
North Glamorgan NHS Trust	Deborah Harris	Senior Nurse Discharge and Continuing Health Care	01685 728341
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Dave Bamforth	Head of Adults and Social Care	01685 724693

Unified Assessment Steering Committee Representatives

Agency	Name	Title	Phone
Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Health Board	Lynda Williams	Nurse Director	01443 824408
Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board	M K Thomas	Director of Nursing and Clinical Leadership	01685 358500
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust	Christopher Griffiths	Locality Manager	01443 668800
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Barbara Dwyer	Temporary Head of Assessment and Care Management Services (Development)	01443 425445
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil	Nicola Park	Health and Social Care Facilitator	01685 353900