

Self-Medication Assessment Tool

Definition

A self-medication assessment tool is used for assessing a service users' ability to self-medicate if they so wish.

Why is a self-medication assessment tool necessary?

It supports people who wish to and are capable of self-administering their medicines to do so safely. It ensures that all students who wish to self-administer are assessed for suitability using this risk assessment tool.

Points of consideration when assessing a service user

Self-medication is an important step towards independence and should be encouraged; provided student's capabilities, including mental capacity, has been assessed and found to be adequate and robust. Students will only be able to self-medicate if their parents have completed and signed the school's "Self-medication consent form". Students will not be permitted to continue to self-medicate if they display poor compliance; unstable medical or mental condition; or the student wishes to discontinue.

- Care providers should assess any risk to the person who looks after his/her own medicines and the potential risk to other people in SCL.
- Care workers should identify whether people who are confused or lack cognitive awareness can safely keep and take their own medicines.
- For those service users who, following assessment are deemed suitable for self-medication need to be provided with secure storage for keeping their medication in their own rooms.
- Prescribed medicines belong to the person they were supplied for, identified by the name on the label. SCL does not own them, even though staff may request and take receipt of medicines.
- There are reasons why some people do not choose to keep their own medicines, preferring instead to allow the care staff to take the responsibility for them. The student's choices should always be documented.
- There will be situations where students are keen to look after some medicines and not others. An example is when a resident keeps an inhaler for immediate use but prefers the SCL team to look after tablets and liquid medicines.

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Recording of assessment

All assessments must be formally recorded in the students care plan and if ever the student is unable to administer their own medicines i.e., through sudden illness the SCL team must document this. The assessments should be reviewed regularly with any change in circumstances clearly recorded.

Self-medication risk assessment tool

	Yes	No	Action required
1) The student can verbalise that he or she wants to self-medicate.			
2) The student can explain what each drug is for (not in medical terms) i.e. Furosemide - this is my water tablet, Digoxin - this is for my heart.			
3) The student can read the instructions on his/her medications and can verbalise these to you: - a) The dose required b) How many times to be taken c) Any special instructions i.e. Before food d) Date it expires			
4) The student is unable to undertake point 3, have they marked their drug containers with their own symbols, to distinguish between each drug, or have they a checklist designed by themselves?			
5) The student is aware that their medicine can cause side effects and that any concerns that the student may have should be reported to the person in charge.			
6) The student will inform the person in charge when his/her medication is "running out".			
7) The student has the right aids to assist him/her in self-medication, i.e. not child proof containers if the student has dexterity problems.			
8) The student agrees to store the medication in the secure storage provided in his/her room - for Health & Safety reasons.			
9) Student accepts that any "controlled drug" must be stored in the controlled drugs cupboard in the treatment room. These will still be dispensed as prescribed by their GP.			
10) The student must only take drugs as prescribed for him/her and if any "homely remedies" are used the person in charge is informed in case of any drug interactions.			

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Name of student:.....

Explanation given by:.....

Is the student deemed suitable for self-administration Yes/No?

Signature of SCL staff member:.....

Date:.....

I agree to self-medicate in accordance with the self-medicating agreement and have read and understood the risk assessment.

Student signature Date

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Self-Medication Consent Form

Student name..... DOB.....

I would like to self-administer all /some of my own medication whilst at Stay Campus London and have received an initial assessment and guidelines of what I need to do.

Drug Name	Dose and Frequency

I agree to:

Keep my medication inside the locked cupboard and keep the key to my box safe

Take the medication as directed and not take more than I should

Tell the senior member of staff on duty I have made a mistake, or another student tries to take my medicine

Let staff have a spare key to my box and check my progress

Student signature..... Parent signature.....

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