

3. Services for people who misuse drugs/alcohol

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3.1 Voluntary sector residential rehabilitation for people who misuse drugs/alcohol

Based on information received for 1994/1995 from eleven voluntary rehabilitation units across England, as part of an economic evaluation conducted by the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health of treatment services for the misuse of drugs (the National Treatment Outcome Research Study: NTORS).¹ At current prices unit costs varied across the eleven residential rehabilitation units, ranging from a minimum of £446 per resident week to a maximum of £1,617 per resident week. Costs have been inflated to 2007/2008 prices.

| Costs and unit estimation | 2007/2008 value | Notes |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Capital costs (A, B & C)</i> | | |
| A. Buildings | £22 per resident week | Based on property valuation information received for 1994/1995, inflated using the Tender Price Index for Public Sector Building (non housing). Capital costs have been annuitised over 60 years at a discount rate of 3.5 per cent. |
| B. Land | | |
| C. Equipment and durables | £0.20 per resident week | 1994/95 costs inflated using the PSS Prices Index. |
| <i>Revenue costs</i> | | |
| D. Salary costs | £450 per resident week | 1994/95 costs inflated using the PSS Pay Index. |
| E. Other revenue costs | £263 per resident week | 1994/95 costs inflated using the PSS Prices Index. |
| F. Agency overheads | £55 per resident week | 1994/95 costs inflated using the PSS Pay and Prices Index. |
| Use of facility by client | 52.18 weeks per year | |
| Occupancy | 77% | Occupancy figures are drawn from the same source as the base data. |
| Unit costs available 2007/2008 | | |
| £790 per resident week (includes A to F). | | |

¹ Centre for the Economics of Mental Health (1999) *The National Treatment Outcome Research Study (NTORS)*, Centre for the Economics of Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. For further information contact Andrew Healey, PSSRU, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, email: A.T.Healey@lse.ac.uk, tel: 020 7955 6234.

3.2 NHS inpatient treatment for people who misuse drugs/alcohol

Based on information received for 1994/1995 from four NHS inpatient units located across England, as part of an economic evaluation conducted by the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health of treatment services for the misuse of drugs (the National Treatment Outcome Research Study: NTORS).¹ The least expensive service was estimated to cost £108 per patient day, while the most expensive was £296 per patient day (1994/95 prices uprated to 2007/2008).

| Costs and unit estimation | 2007/2008 value | Notes |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Capital costs (A, B & C)</i> | | |
| A. Buildings | £25 per patient day | Based on the new build and land requirements for a bed in a psychiatric hospital ward. ² Occupancy rates have been taken into account. Capital costs have been annuitised over 60 years at a discount rate of 3.5 per cent. |
| B. Land | £2.80 per patient day | Based on Office of Deputy Prime Minister statistics. ³ Land costs have been discounted at 3.5 per cent over 60 years. |
| C. Equipment and durables | £0.90 per patient day | 1994/1995 costs inflated using the HCHS prices index. |
| <i>Revenue costs (D, E & F)</i> | | |
| D. Salary costs | £124 per patient day | 1994/1995 costs inflated using the HCHS pay index |
| E. Other revenue costs | £14 per patient day | 1994/1995 costs inflated using the HCHS prices index |
| F. Agency overheads | £52 per patient day | 1994/1995 costs inflated using the HCHS pay and prices index |
| Use of facility by client | 365.25 days per year | |
| Occupancy | 84% | Occupancy figures are drawn from the same source as the base data |
| Unit costs available 2007/2008 | | |
| £219 per patient day (includes A to F). | | |

1 Centre for the Economics of Mental Health (1999) *The National Treatment Outcome Research Study (NTORS)*, Centre for the Economics of Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. For further information contact Andrew Healey, PSSRU, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, email: A.T.Healey@lse.ac.uk, tel: 020 7955 6234.

2 Building Cost Information Service (2008) *Surveys of Tender Prices*, BCIS, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Kingston-upon-Thames.

3 Based on personal communication with the Department for Communities and Local Government (2008). <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141389.xls>.

3.3 Cost of maintaining a drugs misuser on a methadone treatment programme

Based on information received for 15 methadone programmes located across England, as part of an economic evaluation conducted by the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health of treatment services for the misuse of drugs (National Treatment Outcome Research Study: NTORS).¹

The majority of the methadone programmes in the sample were provided by NHS community drug teams. These are either based on a hospital site or literally in the community. Drug users go to the relevant site perhaps on a daily basis, (although arrangements vary from service to service) either to pick up their methadone prescription (dispensed at a community pharmacist) or to receive their dose under supervision on site. They may also consult visiting health professionals (e.g. a visiting GP about health problems, or psychiatrist/CPN about psychiatric problems), visiting probation officers and social workers and site staff. Some services also provide counselling/therapy to deal with addiction. Some of the methadone programmes were run by community drug teams, but the methadone may have actually been prescribed at a GP surgery. A small number of programmes (one or two at most) were provided entirely from a primary care site.

All data were generated from NHS Trust financial accounts and where necessary prescribing cost data for specific programmes were provided by the Prescription Pricing Authority in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

Unit costs varied across the programmes, ranging from a minimum of £9 per week to a maximum of £132 per week (1995/96 prices updated to 2007/2008).

| Costs and unit estimation | 2007/2008 value | Notes |
|--|----------------------|---|
| A. Capital and revenue costs | £31 per patient week | The following costs are included: buildings and land, equipment and durables, staff costs (including site staff and external support staff), supplies and services, and site and agency overheads. 1995/1996 prices inflated by the HCCHS pay and prices index. Capital costs have been discounted at 3.5 per cent over 60 years. |
| B. Methadone costs | £25 per patient week | Includes the cost of prescriptions, any pharmacist dispensing fees, and any toxicology tests. 1995/1996 prices inflated by the HCCHS pay and prices index. |
| Unit costs available 2007/2008 | | |
| £56 per patient week (includes A and B). | | |

¹ Centre for the Economics of Mental Health (1999) *The National Treatment Outcome Research Study (NTORS)*, Centre for the Economics of Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. For further information contact Andrew Healey, PSSRU, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, email: A.T.Healey@lse.ac.uk, tel: 020 7955 6234.

3.4 Alcohol health worker, A&E

Alcohol health workers (AHWs) are experienced mental health nurses who have undertaken specific training in counselling people who misuse alcohol. AHWs interact with people in a non-confrontational and patient-centred way and during an assessment may offer feedback about safe levels of drinking and suggest a range of strategies aimed at reducing levels of consumption.

Information for this schema has been based on a study carried out by the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health at the Institute of Psychiatry, London.¹

| Costs and unit estimation | Cost | Notes |
|--|---|---|
| A. Wages/salary | £29,500 per year | Based on the median full-time equivalent basic salary for Agenda for Change Band 6 of the October-December 2007 NHS Staff Earnings estimates for Qualified Nurses. Median full-time equivalent total earnings which include basic salary plus hours related pay, overtime, occupation payments, location payments and other payments including redundancy pay or payment of notice periods was £32,400. ² See Preface for further information and page 168 for further information on mean salaries. |
| B. Salary oncosts | £6,313 per year | Employers' national insurance contribution plus 14 per cent of salary for employers' contribution to superannuation. |
| C. Qualifications | £5,975 per year | The equivalent annual cost of pre-registration education after the total investment cost has been annuitised over the expected working life. ³ It has been assumed that this health worker requires the same qualifications as a staff nurse/ward manager. See schema 6.5 for further details on training for health professionals. |
| D. Overheads | £2,961 per year | Indirect overheads only. ⁴ No allowance has been made for direct overheads because it is not possible to separate these from the cost of treatment. |
| E. Capital overheads | £2,568 per year | Based on the new build and land requirements of NHS facilities, but adjusted to reflect shared office space for administration, and recreational and changing facilities. ^{5,6} Treatment space has not been included. |
| Working time | 41.3 weeks per annum 37.5 hours per week | Includes 29 days annual leave and 8 days statutory leave. ⁷ Assumes 5 study/training days and 12 days sickness leave. ⁸ Unit costs based on 1547 working hours. |
| Ratio of direct to indirect time on: clinic contacts | 1:0.22 | Assuming 82 per cent of time spent on face-to-face contact and 18 per cent on onward referral. |
| Length of contact | 55 minutes | Per clinic contact. Based on survey of AHWs in London A&E department. ¹ |
| Unit costs available 2007/2008 (costs including qualifications given in brackets) | | |
| £27 (£31) per hour; £33 (£37) per clinic consultation | | |

- Barrett, B., Byford, S., Crawford, M.J., Patton, R., Drummond, C., Henry, J.A. & Touquet, R. (2004) Cost-effectiveness of screening and referral to an alcohol health worker in alcohol misusing patients attending an accident and emergency department: a decision-making approach, *Drug & Alcohol Dependence*, 2006, vol.81, no 1, pp. 47-54.
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- Netten, A., Knight, J., Dennett, J., Cooley, R. & Slight, A. (1998) *Development of a Ready Reckoner for Staff Costs in the NHS, Vol 2*, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.
- Building Cost Information Service (2008) *Surveys of Tender Prices*, March, BCIS, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, London.
- Based on personal communication with the Department for Communities and Local Government (2008). <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141389.xls>.
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