

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). At current prices unit costs varied across the eleven residential rehabilitation units, ranging from a minimum of £401 per resident week to a maximum of £1,461 per resident week. Costs have been inflated to 2004/2005 prices.

Costs and unit estimation	2004/2005 value	Notes
<i>Capital costs (A, B & C)</i>		
A. Buildings	£19 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	£406 per resident week	1994/95 costs inflated using the PSS Pay Index.
E. Other revenue costs	£241 per resident week	1994/95 costs inflated using the PSS Prices Index.
F. Agency overheads	£50 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 2004/2005		
£717 per resident week (includes A to F).		

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). The least expensive service was estimated to cost £96 per patient day, while the most expensive was £233 per patient day (1994/95 prices uprated to 2004/2005).

Costs and unit estimation	2004/2005 value	Notes
<i>Capital costs (A, B & C)</i>		
A. Buildings	£14 per patient day	Based on the new build and land requirements for a bed in a psychiatric hospital ward. ¹ 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	£2.00 per patient day	Based on Office of Deputy Prime Minister ² statistics. 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	£111 per patient day	1994/1995 costs inflated using the HCHS pay index
E. Other revenue costs	£13 per patient day	1994/1995 costs inflated using the HCHS prices index
F. Agency overheads	£48 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 2004/2005		
£189 per patient day (includes A to F).		

1 Building Cost Information Service (2005) *Surveys of Tender Prices*, BCIS, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

2 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Summer 2004.

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).

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 £8 per week to a maximum of £120 per week (1995/96 prices updated to 2004/2005).

Costs and unit estimation	2004/2005 value	Notes
A. Capital and revenue costs	£29 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 HCHS pay and prices index. Capital costs have been discounted at 3.5 per cent over 60 years.
B. Methodone costs	£22 per patient week	Includes the cost of prescriptions, any pharmacist dispensing fees, and any toxicology tests. 1995/1996 prices inflated by the HCHS pay and prices index.
Unit costs available 2004/2005		
£51 per patient week (includes A and B).		

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.

Costs and unit estimation	Cost	Notes
A. Wages/salary	£26,049 per year	Salary for a senior psychiatric nurse in an alcohol health worker role, based on the April 2004 scale mid-point for a F to H grade nurse. It does not include any lump sum and it is assumed that no unsociable hours are worked. ¹
B. Salary oncosts	£3,571 per year	Employers' national insurance contribution plus 4 per cent of salary for employers' contribution to superannuation.
C. Qualifications	£4,129 per year	The equivalent annual cost of pre-registration education after the total investment cost has been annuitised over the expected working life. ² It has been assumed that this health worker requires the same qualifications as a staff nurse/ward manager. See further details on training for health professionals.
D. Overheads	£2,698 per year	Indirect overheads only. ³ No allowance has been made for direct overheads because it is not possible to separate these from the cost of treatment.
E. Capital overheads	£2,220 per year	Based on the new build and land requirements of NHS facilities, ^{4/5} but adjusted to reflect shared office space for administration, and recreational and changing facilities. Treatment space has not been included.
Working time	42 weeks per annum 37.5 hours per week	Includes 25 days annual leave and 10 days statutory leave days. Assumes 5 study/training days and 10 days sickness leave.
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 AHW in London A&E department. ¹
Unit costs available 2004/2005 (costs including qualifications given in brackets)		
£22 (£25) per hour; £20 (23) per clinic consultation		

- 1 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, unpublished.
- 2 Netten, A., Knight, J., Dennett, J., Cooley, R. & Slight, A. (1998) *Development of a Ready Reckoner for Staff Costs in the NHS, Vols 1 & 2*, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.
- 3 Netten, A., Knight, J., Dennett, J., Cooley, R. & Slight, A. (1998) *Development of a Ready Reckoner for Staff Costs in the NHS, Vol 2*, page 13, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.
- 4 Building Cost Information Service (2005) *Surveys of Tender Prices*, March, BCIS, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, London.
- 5 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Summer 2004.