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A cluster randomised controlled trial of alcohol screening and brief interventions in probation services

Submission date
10/03/2008

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
25/04/2008

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
17/08/2018

Condition category
Mental and Behavioural Disorders

[_] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title

A cluster randomised controlled trial of alcohol screening and brief interventions in probation services

Acronym
SIPS-CJS

Study objectives
1. To conduct a pragmatic multicentre cluster randomised controlled trial of screening and brief interventions for hazardous and harmful drinkers in a probation setting in three English regions
2. To compare the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of a Client Information Leaflet (CIL) with simple structured advice conducted by offender managers (Tier 1) and referral to an alcohol health worker for brief lifestyle counselling (Tier 2) in clients with hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption identified by universal screening
3. To assess the relative impact of the three intervention strategies on alcohol screening and brief intervention activity in a probation setting
4. To identify the attitudinal, practical, skill, resource, and reinforcing factors that predict successful implementation of screening and brief intervention in probation
5. To identify the optimal method of alcohol screening in probation
6. To assess the relative impact of the three intervention strategies on uptake of alcohol services, including an alcohol helpline

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Northern & Yorkshire Research Ethics Committee (ref: 08/H0903/2 21/02/2008)

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Cluster randomised controlled trial.

Study type(s)
Not Specified

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Hazardous alcohol use

Interventions
1. Control condition: Offender managers will be trained to carry out screening and give all clients screened positive for hazardous or harmful alcohol use a Client Information Leaflet (CIL). Training will be carried out by experienced trainers for criminal justice staff in seminars and individual training as appropriate to the probation setting. Trainers will be specialist staff from local alcohol agencies or an alcohol health worker.

2. Simple structured advice condition: Offender managers allocated to this condition will be trained to carry out screening and deliver up to 5 min structured brief advice for hazardous and harmful drinkers presenting to their setting, using the Drink-Less brief intervention materials (level 1). Clients in this condition will also receive a CIL as above. Training will be carried out by experienced trainers for criminal justice staff in seminars and individual training as appropriate

to the criminal justice setting. Trainers will be specialist staff from local alcohol agencies or an alcohol health worker. Each probation site will have an allocated coordinator who will champion screening and brief intervention and provide ongoing support and supervision for other staff.

3. Alcohol Health Worker (AHW) condition: All clients that screened positive by offender managers for hazardous/harmful drinking will be given a CIL and a 5 min structured brief advice as above, and referred to an AHW for a longer intervention. The AHW will be experienced in carrying out alcohol assessment and brief interventions. The AHW will carry out a brief lifestyle counselling intervention lasting for 15-20 minutes. The AHW will also be responsible for training and supporting probation staff in implementing screening and referral over the course of the project.

Intervention Type
Other

Phase
Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)
Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test at 6 and 12 months

Key secondary outcome(s)
The following will be assessed at 6 and 12 months:
1. Health related quality of life, EuroQol (EQ-5D)
2. Alcohol problems questionnaire
3. Service utilisation
4. Staff attitudinal measures

Completion date
31/03/2009

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Probation client scoring positive on either the Fast Alcohol Screen Test (FAST) or the Single Alcohol Screening Questionnaire (M-SASQ)
2. Alert and orientated
3. Aged 18 or over
4. Resident in England
5. Able to speak, read and write in English sufficiently well to complete study questionnaires
6. Not intoxicated
7. Not suffering with a serious mental health problem

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. Already in contact with specialist alcohol services
2. Already included in the study or other alcohol research studies
3. Those requesting tertiary specialist help with alcohol problems

All excluded clients will be given information on where to obtain help for alcohol problems, and will receive a health information leaflet with the Drinkline number and website address.

Date of first enrolment
01/04/2008

Date of final enrolment
31/03/2009

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Section of Alcohol Research
London
United Kingdom
SE5 8BB

Sponsor information

Organisation
Kings College London, Institute of Psychiatry (UK)

ROR
https://ror.org/0220mzb33

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
This trial is funded by the UK Department of Health as part of the government's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England (2004) (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	09/10/2012		Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol	18/11/2009		Yes	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes