What can an alcohol and other drug assessment achieve? (DASSA)

Incorporating 5-10 minutes of alcohol and other drug questions into routine health assessments can:

- identify concurrent health issues,
- reduce inaccurate diagnosis,
- identify at-risk behaviours, and
- enable appropriate interventions to be selected.

Such an assessment can also:

- predict possible effects of intoxication,
- assess possible drug interactions,
- predict the likelihood of withdrawal, and
- prevent complications and adverse outcomes for clients or patients and staff.

It also provides the opportunity to:

- engage clients in a therapeutic relationship,
- assist them to make links between their current problems and alcohol and other drug use,
- identify health, social, legal and economic issues, and
- identify specific, individual risk behaviours and needs.

Refer to the ATOD Nursing Guidelines and review section 2.2