

## APPENDIX TWO – QuADS GUIDELINES<sup>6</sup>

### 34. Needle Exchange

#### Criteria:

- 34.1 There are clear protocols on assessment and on minimum levels of information provided to service users. The assessment process establishes whether service users are injecting.
- 34.2 A variety of equipment is provided to service users and access to a range of relevant services.
- 34.3 There are written policies and procedures on needle exchange for those aged 16 years and under which have been consulted on and agreed with the local Area Child Protection Committee and DAT.
- 34.4 Service opening times are widely publicised.
- 34.5 The service provides advice on injection techniques and sites, based on assessment of service user's needs.
- 34.6 Staff demonstrate competence in advising on injection techniques and sites, primary health care and safer sex messages, advice and assessment.
- 34.7 A range of information is available on harm reduction (in language and with images relevant to the service user group)
- 34.8 The needs of both opiate and non-opiate users are reflected in service delivery.
- 34.9 The agency has policies relating to the management of equipment that take account of infection control.
- 34.10 The service has an established monitoring and evaluation system to determine the effectiveness of the service. This should include recording:
- Gender, ethnicity, age, drug use of contacts
  - All new contacts and injecting behaviour at initial assessment
  - Percentage of injectors who report sharing injecting equipment in previous four weeks
  - Numbers of:
    - New attenders per month
    - Exchange packs given out per month per service users
    - Individuals using service (by gender and ethnicity)
    - Service users moving on to treatment elsewhere
    - Percentage of staff trained in giving basic health checks.
- 34.11 Service users are provided with information about and/or referral to other relevant services.
- 34.12 There is a strategy to encourage the return of used needles

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<sup>6</sup> Taken from QuADS Organisational Standards for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services  
Section 4: Service Specific Standards