

My clinical-question and referral brief

For use within your established clinical workflow. Six prompts support a focused summary; attach relevant existing records as appropriate to the receiving service. Do not enter patient information on this website.

Date / period: _____

Safety first. Arrange appropriate urgent assessment for acute clinical risk. Call 000 in an emergency; do not substitute a routine referral for emergency care. Withdrawal risk and changes to treatment require individual assessment and planning. This brief provides no withdrawal protocol or automatic triage. Use established secure clinical channels. A printed prompt sheet is not evidence that a referral has been received or accepted.

1. Clinical question

What specific specialist input is requested?

2. Pattern and trajectory

Recent use, change, consequences and relevant past episodes.

3. Health and context

Physical and mental health, current treatment and circumstances.

4. Current risks and action

Assessment, action already taken and remaining uncertainty.

5. Care and response

What has been tried, with what response; who remains involved?

6. Patient priorities and consent

Goals, understanding of referral and relevant sharing arrangements.

Is the question clear, is interim care addressed, and have the service's referral requirements been checked?

If this sheet includes patient information, store and share it through your established secure clinical systems. This original discussion aid is not a diagnostic test or a treatment plan.

Guide, sources and accessible HTML: <https://www.dreric.net/practice-resources/a-focused-addiction-medicine-referral/>