

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Addictions Counsellor III**

Date Updated: **March 2, 2021**

Job Summary:

The Addictions Counsellor III works independently to provide assessment, treatment, case management, crisis intervention, education and referral services for clients and their families experiencing problems related to addiction from substance use and/or gambling.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Conducts client screening and assessments to address concerns as appropriate.
- Develops, coordinates and implements treatment plans to address client needs.
- Monitors and evaluates client progress and achievement of recovery goals.
- Provides individual, family and group counselling to improve health and promote personal development, recovery and harm reduction.
- Establishes and maintains effective communication with treatment team, colleagues and other health care practitioners concerning documentation, treatment plans, progress and discharge.
- Participates with community stakeholders to identify, develop, implement, and evaluate evidence based addiction prevention and promotion approaches, programs and policies.
- Provides crisis counselling and conflict resolution strategies.

Other Related Duties

- Maintains appropriate records, and provides reports and statistical information as required.
- Promotes community awareness of addictions work and related health issues by providing information through workshops and/or educational materials.
- May participate in policy development.

Leadership

- May supervise bachelor/diploma level addictions practicum students.
- Acts as a clinical resource to community service agencies, other professional or other medical staff in their area of addictions work.
- Collaborates with inter-disciplinary professional(s) about client care plans and goals in order to better facilitate recovery.

Decision-Making

- Makes decisions regarding the appropriate addictions interventions either independently or in collaboration with others.
- Makes day-to-day clinical decisions on client needs for additional support such as assessing and responding to client risks in treatment including self-harm, aggression or violence towards others or resistant behavior.
- Provides recommendations to inter-disciplinary professional(s) as appropriate.

Knowledge:

Education

- Bachelor Degree in Addictions or a combination of a Bachelor Degree in a health related discipline **plus** a diploma in addictions or course work in addictions or equivalent education and experience.

Additional Qualifications/Designations/Certifications

- May require special authorization from Alberta Health Services (AHS) or the applicable professional college in order to perform the restricted aspects of psychosocial interventions.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the applicable professional association or college, if applicable.

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Required to stand or sit for extended periods of time during performance of duties.

Work Environment

- Travel in all-weather/road conditions.
- Works with clients who have cognitive and/or behavioral issues and/or high medical needs as a result of substance use or gambling addiction.
- Requires involvement with clients/families that could be verbally or physically aggressive.