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CCAF



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The CCAF
Certification Centre for ACT and Flexible ACT

The CCAF: Certification Centre for ACT and Flexible ACT

The CCAF is a non-profit foundation set up by Dutch mental health care professionals, service users and researchers. The CCAF certifies ACT (assertive Community Treatment) and Flexible ACT teams and other teams working with an evidence based model for people with severe mental illness, which maintain model fidelity.

CCAF-certified teams deliver recognizable, similar and guaranteed quality of care and treatment. The certificates assure organizations, family representatives and mental health care purchasers of the quality provided by these teams. In this way the CCAF promotes model fidelity in the rollout of these models for severely ill patients in the Netherlands and in other countries.

The Council of Europe is in favour of intensive care outside psychiatric hospitals and optimal social inclusion for people with severe mental illness. In conjunction with European partners, the CCAF aims to stimulate further use of the ACT and Flexible ACT models by providing information for policy makers, professionals and national client organizations.

ACT and Flexible ACT in the Netherlands

Both ACT and Flexible ACT teams operate in the Netherlands. The two models are outlined below.

ACT for the most severely ill patients

ACT provides multi-disciplinary care with shared caseloads for the 20% group of most severely ill patients with SMI. When a patient under the care of an ACT team stabilizes, he or she proceeds to a lighter form of care such as case management, provided by 'step-down' teams.

Flexible ACT for all SMI patients

Flexible ACT provides multi-disciplinary care for the whole group (100%) of SMI patients in a particular region (50,000 inhabitants). Continuity of care is provided for these patients. If necessary (in the event of an imminent crisis recurring psychosis, threat of readmission) a Flexible ACT team can provide full ACT care by switching to shared caseload and intensive outreach. After the crisis a step-down procedure takes place within the same team, which ensures more continuity.

Because the area covered is smaller, the team is better able to support

social inclusion for these patients. The teams collaborate extensively with social partners for that purpose. There are now more than 300 Flexible ACT teams in the Netherlands. You can find these teams on the (Flexible) ACT map on Google maps. You can read more about the Flexible ACT approach in 'Flexible ACT: a Dutch version of ACT', which you can download on the website of the CCAF, www.ccaf.nl.

Model fidelity and certification

The Certification Centre for ACT and Flexible ACT (CCAF) conducts audits of ACT and Flexible ACT teams and other teams, to assess the teams' model fidelity. Teams found to satisfy the requirements are certified and included in the CCAF register. The Centre conducts about 100 audits a year. By the end of 2014, more than 200 teams are certified.

The assessment of ACT teams

Until now, the CCAF has used a slightly adapted version of DACTS (Dartmouth ACT Scale) to assess ACT teams.

The assessment of Flexible ACT teams

To assess Flexible ACT teams

the CCAF uses the Flexible ACTs (Flexible ACT scale), which is partly based on DACTS, but includes more items relating to the process of care delivery, quality assurance and routine outcome monitoring. You can download the English version of the Flexible ACTs on our website, on www.ccaf.nl.

The assessment of forensic ACT/Flexible ACT teams, ACT/Flexible ACT teams for youth and ACT/Flexible ACT teams for the intellectual disabled.

In 2011, the CCAF also introduced a special scale to assess forensic ACT and Flexible ACT-teams. In these scales, adjustments are made to the DACTS and Flexible ACTs to fit these scales to the forensic clients and their special needs and treatment. Violence risk assessment, probation, safety management and the cooperation of the teams with forensic partners are included in these special scales. In 2014 the scale for teams working with youth was introduced and in 2015 the scale for the intellectual disabled was introduced.