



CCAF

WORKBOOK

ACT FIDELITY SCALE 2019

The ACT workbook has been created to ensure the ongoing development of good community-based care for people with severe mental illness and to enable teams to prepare adequately for an ACT audit.

CONTENTS

Contents

Foreword	1
Introduction	2
Background information	4
Professionalization	7
Section A: Team Structure Items	9
Section B: Focus areas	11
Focus area 1: Intensifying treatment	13
Focus Area 2: Personal Domain	14
Focus area 3: Social Domain	15
Focus Area 4: Symptomatic Domain	16
Focus Area 5: Planning and Monitoring at the Individual Client Level	17
Focus Area 6: Crisis and Safety	18
Focus Area 7: (Social) Network Collaboration	19
Focus Area 8: Quality and Innovation	20
Final score	21

Foreword

The ACT workbook provides supports for the ongoing development of ACT teams and facilitates model fidelity in accordance with the ACT Scale 2019. You can monitor your team’s development by working through all the chapters and record the results in a living **Team Document or portfolio** (which includes a mission statement, a vision statement, all the required background information, the team’s procedures, the feedback from satisfaction surveys among clients, family and network partners, and the quality cycle regarding the areas covered in Sections A and B).

Remember that the relationships between the various components is the most important factor to deliver quality. It specifies the target group for your care (case mix), the services you deliver and the fit to the target population. It also describes the collaboration partners to deliver the services, and the resource safety nets to provide comprehensive recovery oriented care around the client and the ACT team.

In mental health and social care team members are often recruited from several organizations. Therefore, we opt to use the term **core team**. **This refers to the members who consistently belong to the team and are involved in all consultations. This may include employees who still belong to different services, but they act as one joint, multi-disciplinary integrated resource.** Of course, the core team can collaborate with outsiders. They can be included in the treatment plans and systematically or sporadically attend team meetings. They are valuable assets in a multi-agency approach (coordinated collaboration of employees of different organizations).

Before engaging in the process of a peer-reviewed audit, it is important to check whether your team meets the minimum requirements for model fidelity. The eligibility criteria listed below serve this purpose. Teams are considered eligible for an audit when they meet at least 8 of the 9 requirements. If you doubt whether your team meets the criteria, please contact the CCAF (info@ccaf.nl). They will assess your specific situation and advice accordingly.

1. How long does the team exist (in months)	≥ 12 months
2. Number of clients in the caseload	≤ 150 clients
3. Client/care provider ratio	≤ 1:15 ratio
4. At least four different disciplines (as in A) present in the core team	≥ 4 core disciplines
5. Number of ACT board meetings each week (all working core team members need to be present)	≥ 4x/week
6. The team can deliver care in a highly intensive manner using outreach	Intensively and using outreach
7. Percentage of clients in face-to-face contact with 4 or more core team members every 2 weeks	≥ 40%
8. In its vision and working procedures the team clearly focuses on multi-domain recovery	Recovery-oriented
9. Percentage of face-to-face contacts that takes place outside the team’s office	≥ 50%

We hope you enjoy working through the components of the ACT workbook and advise you to use the results in your internal PDCA cycle and to write up the details in a living **Team Document** that is updated periodically.

Introduction

For mental health services Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) has become the reference for specialist community-based psychiatric care for persons with severe mental illness (the most complex target groups). It gave a boost to work with peer support workers and plays an eminent role in combining specialist mental health care and social services (employment, healthcare and youth services). This is important because the Netherlands adopted a policy of decentralizing and ambulatory care. This policy, backed with new legislation, called for a change, a creative space and joint innovation. The new ACT fidelity scale reflects this changes with respect for the past, an eye for the present and a focus on the future. It is instrumental to safeguard the quality of care for the SMI group in a changed context in the Netherlands.

Over the past years, after a long history in the USA, the ACT model has been implemented in various organizations across the Netherlands and abroad. The ACT scale and the CCAF audits have played an important role in disseminating this effective care for people with severe mental illness in the community. The original model fidelity scale (DACTs) was normative and these standards contributed to the shift to community-based care and the use of peer support workers. The clear criteria of the scale were a blueprint for beginning ACT teams. However, over time some criteria lost validity. The context has changed and it is appropriate to allow new qualitative initiatives and innovations. The audits should foster quality and innovation and therefore should assess teams in a more appreciative way, without jeopardizing the core principles of ACT.

ACT teams exist in a large variety of types and sizes: they can be specialist or generalist, urban or rural. Local teams adapt rapidly to the changes in Dutch mental health and social services (decentralization of several areas). Two developments have improved the options to up- and downscale the intensity of care throughout the continuum of mental health care. First, nurses specialized in mental health are now based in GP surgeries. Previously the Dutch mental health system could only downscale to GP's and consequently ACT often remained in charge for too long, impeding recovery. Now, more mental health expertise is available at the GP surgery, allowing shared responsibility for clients' physical health. It now makes more sense that GPs take care of recovered former ACT clients (together with a FACT-team or community team). Secondly, the development of High & Intensive Care (HIC) units, a Dutch model for modern inpatient mental health care which aims to reduce coercion and seclusion (see <http://hic-psy.nl/about/>). In the past, when patients were in crisis, upscaled care required a hospital admission and the ACT team lost control of the patient. Admissions could last for a long time and treatment goals were primarily dealt with clinically. Now the ambulatory recovery goals are everyone's main focus, even during admission. The HIC unit keeps admissions as short as possible and continually coordinate with clients, family and the ACT team. Where people with SMI are not directly motivated for treatment, are not visible or actively avoid care, an ACT team has the task of finding, retaining and treating this client group. Targeted and untargeted case finding is one of the team's specialties. This requires taking (social) responsibility for people who need ACT care and are not yet registered as 'clients'.

The Dutch Social Support Act (2012) has led to the development of District Social Service Teams and other municipal initiatives to foster civic participation and self-management. These teams share responsibility for important recovery domains such as housing, work and social contacts. These initiatives differ locally, but ACT-teams have much potential and are a force in the community. They will play a significant a role in the network around clients with severe mental illness and help recovery in various domains.

These changes – both in the Dutch mental health and general social services – required reconsidering the ACT vision of comprehensive integrated care provided by one team. The ambition to significantly reduce the burden of severe mental illness by 1/3 (from *Crossing the Bridge*, 2014) created a sense of urgency. All partners in the services providing continuity of care now speak the same recovery-oriented language and it is possible to scale care up and down when needed even when it requires crossing the borders of services. ACT teams can now

ACT WORKBOOK

truly be open and can offer full outreach services in communities to help clients with severe mental illness to integrate and participate, and above all to make connections with the 'normal' local network of family, friends, volunteers and professionals.

This version of the ACT scale, the ACT fidelity scale 2019, has been commissioned by the CCAF and was authored by M. Bähler, P. Delespaul, H. Kroon, M. v. Vugt and K. Westen in collaboration with practitioners in the field, stakeholders, client organizations, and family and close friends.

Background information

The information that is compiled in this list is necessary to get an impression overview of the ACT's team target population (case mix), the context in which the service is provided and the available resources to provide the service. We assess whether the team has a good picture of the target population, in order to provide interventions that match the goals of individual clients. The background information list is used by the CCAF auditors to prepare for the audit. Therefore, this information must be received by the CCAF at least 3 weeks before the planned audit, using the digital form sent as part of the audit.

Description	
1. Team name	
2. How long team has existed (in months)	
3. Number of FTEs	
4. Number of team members	
5. Number of clients	
6. Client/care provider ratio	
7. Catchment area (list of postcodes/towns)	
8. Other providers that service the same caseload in catchment area	
9. Number of inhabitants	
10. List the different disciplines (as in A) present in the core team.	
11. Number of clients on waiting list	
12. Average waiting time for clients on waiting list in days	
13. Inclusion criteria	
14. Exclusion criteria	
15. Number of intakes over past 6 months	
16. Number of discharges over past 6 months including destination	In consultation with clients: No consultation with clients: Death through natural causes: Death through unnatural causes/suicide: TOTAL :
17. Number of clients admitted to psychiatric hospital/psychiatric/geriatric ward of general hospital over past 6 months	Check out destination: To GP: Basic MH care: Other: Admissions to psychiatric hospital: Admissions to sheltered housing: Admissions to psycho-geriatric ward: Admission to somatic hospital: Other admissions:

ACT WORKBOOK

44. The team has access to services relating to self-care.				
45. The team has access to financial expertise and support.				
46. The team has access to services relating to housing.				
47. The team offers.....				

Professionalization

The team composition and professional development of a ACT team should match the necessary expertise and needs of the target population (case mix). A detailed overview of all team members is included in the living **Team Document**. It can be provided using the table below. This information must be received by the CCAF at least 3 weeks before the planned audit, using the digital form sent as part of the audit.

The table lists the net number of FTEs that the core team member actually spends on the team (including time of interns spent in training).

A few points of attention when filling in the form:

- Interns only need to be mentioned if they have been with the team for at least 1 year
- Volunteers only need to be mentioned if there is a volunteer contract.
- If a team member is ill for more than 3 months, please indicate.
- If a team leader leads several teams, please indicate the number of hours this team leader spends on this team.
- Fill in any personnel vacancies in the past year in FTE under the heading "Team member name".

Item	Team member 1	Team member 2	Team member 3	Team member 4	Team member 5	Etc.
Name of team member						
Qualifications						
% of a FTE						
Number of years employed by the team (Indicate <1 yr, 1-3 yrs, >3 yrs)						
Still in training? If so, how many hours a week?						
Training over the past year						
Present at daily ACT board meeting						

ACT WORKBOOK

Also works for:						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Section A: Team Structure Items

Section A of the ACTs check items that can be assessed by specific numbers. During a CCAF audit these items (often preliminarily scored using the above material) will be scored.

- Scoring domains of expertise: a team member can have several domains of expertise. However, this increases the risk of fragmentation of expertise. This makes the team very vulnerable. So, in the ACTs each team member can only be attributed 1 domain of expertise in items 1 to 7.
- Formula for item 1: number of FTEs of the core team/number of clients
- Formula for item 2: number of employees with ≥ 0.78 FTE/number of employees x 100
- Formula for items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11: FTEs of the core team x 100/number of clients the team has.
- Scoring item 14 and 16: use the formula as described in appendix 1.

1. Small caseload	1	2	3	4	5
The core team's client/care provider ratio is 10:1.	>15 clients	14	13	12-11	≤ 10 clients
2. Team member employment	1	2	3	4	5
At least 50% of the core team members have a position of 0.78 FTE with the team.	0-19%	20-29%	30-39%	40-49%	$\geq 50\%$
3. Psychiatrist	1	2	3	4	5
The core team employs at least one full-time psychiatrist per 100 clients.	<0.2 FTE	0.2-0.39	0.40-0.69	0.70-0.99	≥ 1 FTE
4. Psychologist	1	2	3	4	5
The core team employs at least 1.2 FTE psychologists per 100 clients.	≤ 0.79 FTE	>0.79	0.8-1.2 including clin. psych.	0.8-1.2 including ≥ 0.6 FTE clin. psych	≥ 1.2 FTE, including ≥ 0.6 FTE clin. psych.
5. Nurse	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients the team employs at least 4 FTEs nurses, including 3 FTE with a bachelor's degree and 0.78 FTE mental health nurse practitioner.	<3 FTE	<4 FTE with at least 1 FTE with bachelor's degree	>4 FTE with at least 2 FTE with bachelor's degree	>4 FTE with at least 2 FTE with bachelor's degree + 0.78 MHNP	>4 FTE with at least 3 FTE with bachelor's degree + 0.78 MHNP
6. Social work	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients the team employs at least 1 FTE social worker and/or welfare rights adviser.	<0.5 FTE	0.5-0.65	0.66-0.77	0.78-0.99	≥ 1 FTE
7. Employment specialist	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients at least 1 FTE is specialized in vocational rehabilitation.	<0.5 FTE	0.5-0.65	0.66-0.77	0.78-0.99	>1 FTE
8. Peer support expertise	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients the team employs at least 2 (paid) peer support workers, in total at least 1 FTE, 0.6 FTE have formal qualifications (at least at vocational level) and with one team member from item 3-7. Workers with experience as a client and as family are both represented.	<0.6 FTE	0.6-0.99	≥ 1	≥ 1 with two team members with a minimum of 0.4 with formal	≥ 1 FTE (see description)

ACT WORKBOOK

				qualificati ons.	
9. Physical health expertise	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients the team employs at least 1 FTE with physical health expertise.	<0.2 FTE	0.2-0.39	0.40- 0.69	0.70-0.99	≥1 FTE
10. Addiction expertise	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients the team employs at least 1 FTE with addiction expertise.	<0.2 FTE	0.2-0.39	0.40- 0.69	0.70-0.99	≥1 FTE
11. Expertise relating to MID	1	2	3	4	5
Per 100 clients the team employs at least 0.8 FTE care provider with expertise relating to Mild Intellectual Disorders.	<0.2 FTE	0.2-0.39	0.4-0.59	0.6-0.79	≥0.8 FTE
12. Self-determination and autonomy	1	2	3	4	5
(1) The team has assigned steering and coordinating roles within the team. (2) Specific members actively monitor the application of the ACT model. (3) Specific members chair the ACT meeting. (4) A specific member chairs the treatment plan meetings.	The team meets none of the four criteria.	The team meets one criterion.	The team meets two criteria.	The team meets three criteria.	The team meets four criteria.
13. Intensity of Care	1	2	3	4	5
(1) The team systematically coordinates the intensity of care over the whole continuum of care. (2) The team has clear criteria for starting and terminating care. (3) Formal and informal resources are involved in the provision of intensified care. (4) The team has the resources and flexibility to intensify care to multiple daily visits.	The team meets none of the four criteria.	The team meets one criterion.	The team meets two criteria.	The team meets three criteria.	The team meets four criteria.
14. Team approach	1	2	3	4	5
All clients of a ACT team see at least 4 different team members of the core team every two weeks.	<50%	50-59%	60-73%	74-89%	>90%
15. Daily ACT board meeting	1	2	3	4	5
(1) Daily board meeting (2) All working team members are present (3) All clients are evaluated	>4x a week board meeting	4x a week & (2) or (3)	4x a week & (2)&(3)	5x a week & (2) or (3)	5x a week & (2)&(3)
16. Outreach services	1	2	3	4	5
The team focuses on the development of skills in the community. Over 80% of contacts take place outside the team's office.	<50% of face-to-face contacts outside the office	50-59%	60-69%	70-79%	≥80%

Section B: Focus areas

Section B of the ACT fidelity scale assesses the ACT-team’s frame of reference: domains of care provided by the team, and given the team’s case mix, resources, context and composition, which areas should the team particularly focus on. Section B of the ACTs is assessed, based on all the information gathered by auditors of the CCAF during a day of appreciative inquiry, on a scale from 1 to 8.

1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8
Not evident	In development	Correctly implemented	Exemplary

An adequate cycle of quality improvement and a vivid **Team Document** (including a mission statement, a vision, all the background information, their strategy, feedback from stakeholders and the PDSA cycle relating to the focus areas in Sections A and B) will help to show your clients, their family and friends, and your network partners what your ACT-team represents and what its aims are. In addition, it provides convenient input to prepare for a CCAF audit. The following are examples of the types of information that are included in Part B. This can be in writing in a compactly described document, possibly developed in the triad, or with a foreword by a close relative, a cover designed by a client, or all feedback processed from the network, or in a combination of a written document with a short documentary about the ACT-team and its members or a more musical performance. The Team document therefore shows not only the quality of the content, but that of the team too.

For whom, with whom and what?

‘After the case mix analysis, our organization’s ACT-team ‘South’ realized that 30 clients in their caseload had been diagnosed with PTSD. In response to this, action was taken to enable the ACT-team to offer EMDR. Our ACT-team ‘North’ has fewer clients with this diagnosis and has no suitable staff member. We now use the psychologist from ACT South. Of course the psychologist’s actions are included in our treatment plans and she frequently attends our treatment plan meetings and ACT-board meetings to discuss progress.’

‘When our younger clients are included and placed on the ACT-board to receive intensified ACT-treatment, we intensify care in consultation with the parents, the school social worker and the care workers from the Child and Family Centre. The care providers from these organizations who are involved are listed on the ACT-board and are aware of jointly set goals. This is important because it means that representatives of different disciplines can see the young people several times a week and there is close consultation with the team. The social welfare workers attend, if possible, the ACT-board meetings. This means that as being a relatively small team we are able to intensify care to multiple visits or contacts a day and prevent hospitalization or increased symptoms.’

‘Thanks to the monthly consultations, which are also attended by the doctor of the substance abuse services, I can prescribe our clients anti-craving medication. In consultation with our addiction expert we have been able to treat our team’s clients who have both an addiction and a psychiatric diagnosis both with medication and with appropriate interventions based on the Community Reinforcement Approach. With our support, one of our clients set up a precontemplation group during her time with us, something we are very proud of.’

“We recently started discussing the ACT-board 7 days a week. Many of our clients, as well as those of the other ACT and FACT-teams in our region, still regularly came into the picture during the weekends. In addition, we sometimes asked our crisis service to continue interventions during the weekend in our absence. Together with the other teams, we have now set up a kind of (F)ACT weekend team. All teams can register clients for this with accompanying actions/interventions and they are then discussed in the morning and then visited. Of course, if anything else might happen with one of our clients, we are now easily available.”

ACT WORKBOOK

'Thanks to the mediation of the COC [Dutch association advocating the rights of LGBTs], since recently I have been working a few hours a week in this team as a volunteer. I am an LGBT peer support worker. My arrival was and is more than welcome, since it has turned out that in 10% of the recovery assessments clients' questions, interests and problems related to sexual identity. I have observed that since I have been here, the cultural and spiritual identity of clients has become a focal point and that clients are asked more explicitly about sexual side effects.'

'Yes, as a team we decided to attend the community Social Support System meeting once a month, in different combinations each time. This has turned out to be an important opportunity to exchange expertise with other organizations, to gain knowledge about the working procedures of other organizations, in other words to network ... and above all to continue to tell our network partners about our possibilities and our inclusion and exclusion criteria. This means that when we have difficult referrals we can now find each other much quicker and on a more personal basis.'

Focus area 1: Intensifying treatment

An ACT-team should be able to continuously deliver a high intensity of care and do so in the continuum of care, from GP and district social service team to FACT and inpatient care. The team can deliver intensified care on its own or in collaboration with the network partners involved and/or the client's support system, depending on the context, the composition of the team and the case mix. An approach in which *all team members* (from different perspectives) are involved in all client's treatment is a prerequisite for both treatment and process, for the entire caseload. Necessary is that time and space is left unscheduled in the team members' agenda's to be able to implement ACT. It is essential for the team to maintain in charge of care when care is partly outsourced. The intensity of treatment and a team's flexibility and outreach becomes evident during the morning ACT-board meeting, where all are present and all clients are evaluated, and in the procedures described (in the Team Document, for instance).

Another component is *staging of care*: ensuring that interventions are exactly right for the client at a particular point in time in order to support the individual recovery process. In this way customized and proportionate care is guaranteed, clients' own control is enhanced and the team is prevented from being too paternalistic or too demanding. Staging of care can be achieved with the help of methods such as the stages of recovery, behavioural change or treatment (including addiction treatment). It is up to the team to choose the approach which is the most appropriate for their team and best supported by evidence. The stages will be reflected in the treatment plan, the procedures and the implementation of the treatment plan, and during the daily ACT-board meeting.

Members of the team are expected to be aware of working procedures, the ACT-method and the adequate staging of care and to use their knowledge appropriately during meetings.

To summarize, the assessment will be based on the following items:

- 1) Intensified and outreach treatment is evident during the ACT-board meeting.
- 2) Staging of care is reflected in treatment plans, on the ACT-board and is implemented.
- 3) There is a shared caseload, with all team members actively contributing expertise.
- 4) The level of care provided is appropriate to the stage in the client's recovery process; care is up scaled or down when necessary or desirable in the continuum of care.

For an optimal score all of these items must be evident during the daily ACT-board meeting, during interviews, the focus group with clients and relatives and in treatment plans during the day of the audit.

Focus Area 2: Personal Domain

An ACT-team's mission is to support the recovery process of people with severe mental illness. The team achieves this by focusing on three domains: the personal, the social and the symptomatic. These domains will be described separately.

The ACT-team is paying attention to the client's *personal domain* when it recognizes the client's individuality and identity and acts accordingly as a team. There is space for the client's individual development and distinctive strengths, just as there is space for the client's struggle with their own cultural, sexual and spiritual identity and emotions such as grieving and sorrow. Attention is paid to combating self-stigmatization and the team members are also alert to any tendency they themselves may have to stigmatize their clients. As a consequence, after adequate consultation the team has the confidence to take positive risks (from a care provider's point of view) and to discuss irresponsible risks with those involved in order to reach a joint decision. This also includes carefully discussing and seeking a balance between one's own direction on the one hand and using coercion and pressure on the other.

A positive and present attitude can be seen as a basic prerequisite for the team. Supporting each other, reminding each other and using hopeful language at meetings demonstrate that the whole team takes responsibility. Obviously this hopeful language and approach will also be reflected in the team's written material.

To summarize, the assessment will be based on the following items:

- 1) The team recognizes and acknowledges the client's individuality.
- 2) The team takes the client's own strength as its starting point.
- 3) The team perceives the client's struggle with their cultural, sexual and spiritual identity and emotions such as grief and sorrow and the team members act together accordingly.
- 4) The team pays attention to combating stigmatization by the team and self-stigmatization by the client.
- 5) The team is not afraid to take risks.
- 6) The team has a hopeful attitude and uses hopeful language oriented towards an open and positive picture of the future.

For an optimal score all these items must be evident in the Team Document, the interviews and during the daily ACT-board meeting, and also reflected in the focus group with clients and relatives during the day of the audit.

Focus area 3: Social Domain

An ACT-team provides support in the client's *social domain* by being aware of and responsive to the various social roles the client has in life and by providing appropriate support. This is possible in practical terms thanks to the use of participation or recovery-oriented assessment tools. Support is provided according to the wishes and goals expressed by the client in relation to the domains of 'self-care and living', 'social network' and 'work and leisure'. Interventions are prepared in conjunction with the client, their family and the team's professional network partners. Often, the treatment plan includes proactive interventions (such as assertive outreach interventions), targeting both the individual client and their environment.

The possible interventions and the focus will depend on the social context, the available resources - both the client's and the team's - and the case mix. Teams will focus on finding housing, preventing homelessness and sorting out financial issues, whereas there's the need to focus on loneliness, pathways to work or training, self-care or safe living too.

To summarize, the assessment will be based on the following items:

3.1 Client's participation within the 'self-care and living' domain is evident

- The team describes the client's goals the team formulates the client's goals within the 'self-care and living' domain.
- The team uses interventions clearly aimed at achieving the client's goals within the 'self-care and living' domain.
- Assistance in this domain is available in the core team or in the network directly controlled by the team.

3.2 Client's participation within the 'social network' domain is evident

- The team describes the client's goals and formulates the client's goals within the 'social network' domain.
- The team uses interventions clearly aimed at achieving the client's goals within the 'social network' domain.

3.3 Client's participation within the 'work and leisure' domain is evident

- The team describes the client's goals and formulates the client's goals within the 'work and leisure' domain.
- The team uses interventions clearly aimed at achieving the client's goals within the 'work and leisure' domain, with the employment specialist taking the initiating role.

For an optimal score the items must be applicable to all clients and be appropriate for the individual client. This is reflected at the daily ACT-board meeting, in treatment plans, interviews and in the intake and assessment procedures.

Focus Area 4: Symptomatic Domain

The team seeks to achieve the highest possible level of mental and physical well-being for the client. For this purpose, the team has implemented a system in which screening, diagnostics, treatment and interventions all take place in accordance with the most recent research findings. The experts in the team take the initiative and are actively involved in screening, diagnostics and in delivering and evaluating treatment relating to their specific expertise for all of the shared caseload.

The assessment is based on the following items:

4.1 Psychiatric interventions

- State-of-the-art and integrated screening, diagnostics, treatment and evaluation of effect.
- Medication management.

4.2 Physical health interventions

- State-of-the-art and integrated screening, diagnostics, treatment and evaluation of effect.
- The full range of physical health is treated, if necessary with active referrals and follow-up.

4.3 Psychological and pedagogical interventions

- State-of-the-art and integrated screening, diagnostics, treatment and evaluation of effect.
- The interventions offered are appropriate for the case mix.
- It is clear that the MID expert plays an initiating role.

4.4 Addiction interventions

- State-of-the-art and integrated screening, diagnostics, treatment and evaluation of effect.
- Addiction interventions are explicitly referred to and described, and are used in an intense and stage-wised way.
- It is clear that the addiction expert plays an initiating role.

For an optimal score all of these interventions must be available for the entire caseload and must be appropriate for the case mix. A thorough analysis of the background information list in relation to what is offered is helpful in this respect.

Focus Area 5: Planning and Monitoring at the Individual Client Level

The team has a clear treatment plan cycle and adheres to the logistical process according to good working procedures. Integration of the ROM (Routine Outcome Monitoring) data is part of this; the team has clearly made a well-reasoned choice from the available standardized measuring instruments.

In conjunction with the client and the client's personal network the team lists the goals in the client's treatment plan. The client's family can also contribute goals. The role of the family is set out explicitly in the treatment plans.

In conjunction with the client and the professional network goals are identified and the professional network may also contribute goals. The role of the network partners is set out explicitly in the treatment plans. This means that the ACT-team takes a managing and coordinating role and oversees all of the care provided to support recovery, prevent hospital admissions and reduce the duration of any admission.

The ACT-team is fully responsible for clients with the most complex SMI conditions in their region. The interventions offered and described by the team, as referred to under Focus Area 4, must be available for the whole caseload. An active policy is pursued to critically assess each time whether clients can be led to less intensive form of care (e.g. FACT/Community mental health teams/step-down-teams) by means of a comprehensive transfer.

Obviously the evaluation and systematic follow-up of the treatment must take place in consultation with the client, their family and the professional network.

The assessment is based on the following items:

5.1 Planning and Monitoring cycle

- The treatment plan cycle is described.
- The implementation and evaluation of the treatment and its progress take place collectively; there is a collaborative relationship between the team and the client, their family, the GP and the mental health worker at the GP surgery. Decision-making about treatment takes place collectively (team, network, client and family). Each party may contribute goals.
- At least once a year clinical Routine Outcome Monitoring (ROM) takes place for the benefit of individual strategies and treatment plans. Standardized instruments are used to measure (1) psychological and social function, (2) needs and (3) quality of life and recovery.
- An active policy is pursued to motivate clients (if necessary) and lead them to suitable interventions or less intensive care (such as FACT).

5.2 Integrated responsibility

- The target group concerns those clients for whom very intensive, assertive, outpatient psychiatric treatment is indicated.
- The team as a whole is responsible for the outcome of the treatment and assumes a managing and coordinating role.

For an optimal score all of these items must be evident in the procedures the team has documented, the interviews and in treatment plans.

Focus Area 6: Crisis and Safety

The team keeps a watchful eye on the safety of the client, their environment and the members of the team. Its goal is to minimize safety risks and the need for crisis intervention. To achieve this the team has implemented policy consisting of risk assessment and the provision of evidence-based interventions relating to crisis prevention and early detection. The team implements a crisis policy that is preventive, assertive and proactive. It can be expected for the team to have a structural relationship with regional services such as the police force and other health and safety services to ensure personal safety in and around homes. Obviously the range of interventions and measures must be appropriate for the case mix and the social context.

The ACT-team supports clients in their recovery process and is committed to preventing social decline, relapse and crisis. The use of assertive engaging interventions, acute up scaling of care and collaboration with relevant partners are important in this regard. In its own catchment area the team can undertake targeted case finding when clients seem to drop out of care as well as untargeted case finding to make adequate care available to people with severe mental illness in its own catchment area. The team should act as a gatekeeper as regards hospital admission and discharge. The ACT-team constantly monitors the safety of the client, the team itself and the environment, and is responsible for intervening if necessary. The team has documented safety policy and adheres to it. Clients can make use of forensic interventions and have individually tailored crisis (and crisis prevention) plans.

The assessment is based on the following items:

6.1 Assertive Proactive Crisis Interventions

- The team is able to identify the signs of a crisis or imminent crisis.
- The team is able to upscale care and take the necessary measures (including judicial measures such as compulsory admission or treatment orders) to restore safety.
- The team is, as a whole and 24/7, responsible for upscaling and downscaling care within the network of resources, even when hospital wards, crisis services, the GP and community social service teams are involved with the client.
- A client's individual crisis plan is drawn up systematically with input from the client, their family and the team and is evaluated with the client and their network.
- The team has various strategies to approach people with care-avoiding behaviour, to bind them and to carry out targeted and untargeted case finding.

6.2 Safety and Risks

- Binding, proactive, outreaching and assertive care provision is the norm prevent drop-out.
- Risk assessment tools appropriate to the target group are used with the aim of preventing suicide, social decline, aggression and crime.
- Forensic interventions are available and are used. Their effect is evaluated. Group and individual training sessions on aggression management, impulse control or emotional regulation are provided. The team also provides interventions for offence-specific problems such as domestic violence or sexual offences and actively refers clients to them.
- The team has a documented safety policy which covers the following topics: (1) home visits, (2) follow-up care after an incident, (3) reporting incidents and (4) dealing with aggression.

For a team to be given the highest score the items must be applicable to all clients and must be appropriate to the individual clients. This is reflected in the Team Document, during the daily ACT-board meeting, in treatment plans, the interviews and in the intake and assessment procedures.

Focus Area 7: (Social) Network Collaboration

Committed *collaboration with the client's network* is of crucial importance to ensure that control of the recovery process lies with the client and his resources of choice as quickly as possible. During the period when the client receives care from the ACT-team this should be as long as necessary, but as short as possible, and personal and professional support from the client's network is obviously important during and after ACT-treatment. The team involves the client's network in the team evaluations, supports the network with the most appropriate forms of treatment for the target group and supports and facilitates the creation of forms of self-help by the client's personal network. The team can be expected to have a lasting relationship with the present FACT-teams and inpatient units to ensure that scaling up and down of care runs smoothly and on time.

An ACT-team works for a particular target group in a particular social context in a particular region. It is important to ensure a good match between the chosen target group and the range and intensity of collaboration with network partners in the neighbourhood or region. Supporting full recovery in all areas calls for a broad and active network of professionals, including team members but also including care providers from outside the team. The intensity of the collaborative arrangement may vary depending on the goals and wishes shared by the target group. One partner may attend the ACT-board meeting every day and be part of the team, whereas another can be reached easily by phone or email. Positive working relationships with both external and internal contacts is essential. Active management of network relationships through arranging information meetings, offering consultation opportunities, giving tokens of appreciation and attending care coordination meetings with psychiatric wards are certainly part of this.

The assessment is based on the following items:

7.1 Engagement and Collaboration with the Client's Social Network

- The team offers individual and/or group interventions for family.
- The team facilitates and motivates the setting up and running of self-help groups by family.
- The team conducts regular satisfaction surveys for clients, family and network partners to evaluate its work systematically and to modify its working procedures if necessary.

7.2 Collaboration with Internal and External Professional Networks

- The team is aware of the social support system and the care services, organizations and facilities available in their catchment area.
- The internal and external collaborative partners and the form and intensity of collaboration are appropriate for the caseload, the social context and the available resources.

For a team to be given the highest score all of these items must be available for the entire caseload, must be implemented and evaluated systematically and must be appropriate for the case mix.

Focus Area 8: Quality and Innovation

The ACT-team seeks to provide the highest quality of care and is open to new knowledge, initiatives and innovations. To achieve this, the team has a specially designed training policy, which is set out in the Team Document. Team members continue to develop additional expertise in their field. The training policy is geared towards the target group, the working procedure and the treatment offered. The team is willing to take students on placement and to cooperate in other ways with educational institutions.

The team regularly invites external experts or asks for their help. This may be for support in an individual case, in relation to an ethical dilemma or to support team processes. In a more formal sense, the team must make it possible to ask for a second opinion and must actively offer this option.

In addition, there is evidence the team works with a PDSA cycle to improve their quality. If a team is well aware of its own qualities, strengths and challenges, this will be a starting point for all actions relating to quality and innovation. The knowledge and expertise gained in this way can be shared within and outside the organization to enhance the qualitative development of the ACT-model.

Innovative initiatives can be taken in many areas; their effects may be far-reaching or more limited in scope, their impact major or minor, and they may be more or less disruptive. It is important for the team that it is possible to experiment with all kinds of care innovations and the team jointly supports these developments.

The assessment is based on the following items:

8.1 Training

- Over the past 2 years each team member has had training in EBPs that are relevant to the team
- Over the past 2 years each team member has had training in recovery-related issues
- A written team document is present and shows a training and peer supervision policy which is appropriate to the casemix. This team document is regularly evaluated and modified.

8.2 Expert knowledge

- Experts are invited at least once a month (consultation).
- The team has a clear consultation role.
- A second opinion is offered when necessary.

8.3 Planning and Control Cycle at the Team Level

- The Team Document contains an improvement plan which includes goals and actions.
- The outcomes of the Routine Outcome Monitoring and the client satisfaction surveys are used at team level to systematically evaluate and, if necessary, modify the team's working procedures.

8.4 Care Innovation

- The team has alternative and/or innovative and/or health technology interventions or actions which set it apart in a positive sense.

For a team to receive the highest score all of these items must be clearly present in the written Team Document and in the logistical process of the quality assurance cycle.

Final score

The final score is calculated by adding the mean score for Section A to the mean score for Section B. The highest score possible is 13.

Mean score Section A:	
Mean score Section B:	
Total score A + B:	