

Iraq Sub Committee report 2010

1. THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY PROGRAMME

This project progressed in 2010, building on what had been achieved in 2009. The aim of the project is to develop standards for clinical practice and the process of raising and maintaining those standards. Four priority areas have been identified: ECT, Tranquilisation (including restraint, seclusion and management of violence), Medical Records and Patient's Rights.

Two meetings were held in 2010, attended by the Iraqi Minister of Health, focusing on these areas:

1.1 Sulaimaniya, Iraq, April 2010

The ISC was represented by Dr Abed, Dr R Amin, Dr M Al Uzri and Dr M Alyassiri. During this meeting the standards and pilot sites were agreed.

1.2 Baghdad, Iraq, November 2010

This was a follow-up meeting where progress in implementing this programme was discussed. One of the achievements was the agreement to cease the use of unmodified ECT at Al-Rashid hospital (the biggest psychiatric hospital in Iraq). The ISC members who attended and facilitated this meeting were Dr R Abed, Dr M Al Uzri, Dr R Amin and Dr M Alyassiri.

2. THE POSTGRADUATE (BOARD) TRAINING IN IRAQ

Members of the ISC actively contributed to a number of developments in this area including:

2.1 New Curriculum for the postgraduate (BOARD) training:

ISC members contributed to the development of a new curriculum in collaboration with the president of the Iraqi Board. Improvements to the new curriculum included a vision statement, emphasis on competency-based training with a list of competencies in the 7 domains based on the CanMEDS model, the introduction of formal supervision process (one hour every 2 weeks), mandatory supervisors and CBT training courses. The exams, which are now similar to the MRCPsych exams (new curriculum) comprise only one part of the assessment process. In addition, workplace-based assessment, supervisor's reports and annual reviews of progress were added.

2.2 The first Clinical supervisors training course, Sulaimaniya, Iraq, April 2010

A two days course delivered by ISC members (Dr M Abbas, Dr M Al Uzri and Dr S Dhumed) that included mock Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA) featuring Iraqi actors.

2.3 The second Clinical supervisors training course, Baghdad, Iraq, November 2010

This was a two-day course delivered by ISC members (Dr M Abbas, Dr M Al Uzri and Dr S Dhumed,) and IMHF members (Dr K Ajel and Dr A Allaq). The content of this course was similar to the first one.

2.4 A workshop on CASC Exam, Baghdad, Iraq, November, 2010

This was delivered by the ISC members: Dr R Amin, Dr R Abed and Dr A Allaq.

2.5 Training the Trainers event, for Iraqi psychiatrists February 2010

Nine Iraqi psychiatrists visited the UK for two weeks of training. The visiting psychiatrists shadowed ISC and Iraq Mental Health Forum (IMHF) members in their respective Trusts and observed both training processes and clinical work. This was followed by a week-long course at the College focusing on training for trainers. This course looked at the concepts of supervision for trainees in more depth. A joint meeting of the IMHF and the new IMHA (Iraqi Mental Health Association) also took place during the visit and was well attended.

2.6 CBT training Baghdad, 2010

This course was run by Dr S Dhumad (ISC member). It was attended by over 40 psychiatry students. The purpose of this course was to build on the work done in the online CBT course and the CBT discussion group moderated by Dr Dhumed. Plans to open a new CBT department at the medical city teaching hospital were also discussed.

2.7 A Research Methodology Workshop, Baghdad Iraq, November, 2010

This workshop was delivered by Dr M Abbas (ISC member) to Iraqi Board students and teachers.