

Iraq Sub Committee Annual Report- 2011

1. THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY PROGRAMME

This project has progressed in 2011, building on what had been achieved in previous years. The aim of the project is to develop standards for clinical practice and the process of raising and maintaining those standards. Four priority areas were identified: ECT, Tranquilisation (including restraint, seclusion and management of violence), Medical Records and Patient's Rights. During 2011 there was one meeting to review the progress of this project in Sulaimania, Iraqi Kurdistan, October 11 – 13 and another related event (see item 2).

The achievements of this project are as follows

- The establishment of a Quality Committee for mental health in Iraq chaired by the deputy national advisor for mental health at the Ministry of Health with representation from all regions of Iraq
- 4 protocols have been developed in the 4 areas
- Cessation of unmodified ECT treatment at Al-Rashad long-stay Hospital and the transfer of patients requiring ECT to Al-Rashad for modified ECT as required
- Iraqi psychiatric nurses engaged for the first time in training on de-escalation and restraint
- All staff in pilot psychiatric units for RT trained on CPR for the first time
- Patients' rights placed on the agenda of a number of psychiatric units across the country

The Iraqi Ministry of Health responded to the Quality and Standards Project as follows:

1. Adoption of all policies as part of drive to provide high quality services in psychiatric hospitals and units all over Iraq.
2. Follow up the implementation of policies through the Technical Affairs Directorate – MOH by collaboration with (Mental Health Departments) in all governorates.
3. To organise training courses inside and outside Iraq for doctors and paramedical staff on implementing the policies.
4. Short biannual courses as a continuous medical education about policies for junior doctors as a part of their residency training.

5. Supplying all medicines, devices and equipments needed to apply policies and to issue a directive to forbid unmodified ECT except in centres where there are no anaesthesia facilities.
6. Reforming Patients' Rights Committee to include: Dr. Ali Meziad, MOH, Dr. Rawisht Sabri, MOH KRG, Dr. Sarmad Nazhat, MOH, Psych, Dalal Kadhim, MOH, Dr. Qassim Awadi, IPA, Lawyer, MOH
7. Collaboration with Heartland Alliance – NAMI program to provide psychological and social support to psychiatric patients through their families.
8. Collaboration with Iraqi Psychiatric Association (IPA) and Iraqi Medical Syndicate to apply policies in private sector.
9. Preparing to do the next workshop (5th) for auditing achievements in October 2012 in Baghdad on account of MOH.

2. DE-ESCALATION AND RESTRAINT TRAINING IN SULAIMANIYA, Iraq, 4-8 April 2011

Two trainers and one facilitator participated on this course. It was attended by 20 mental health professionals (3 doctors and 17 nurses).

The course covered the theoretical and practical skills necessary to prevent and manage moderate to high levels of aggression.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP, Baghdad Iraq, 25-27 April, 2011

This workshop was delivered by 2 ISC members and was open to postgraduate (Board) students from all specialities. It was attended by 40 students and covered research methodologies, basic statistics and critical appraisal. It received very good feedback with a plan to repeat it in the future.

4. THE CBT PROGRAMME

This project is being led by Dr Dhumed, an ISC member, who has been appointed as visiting consultant. The online CBT course PRAXIS CBT, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust: www.praxiscbtonline.co.uk is still on going with e mail supervision.

There were three visits to Iraq during 2011:

- 3 day training in April 2011
- 3 day training September 2011
- 5 day training November 2011

The achievements of the project to date:

CBT is now mandatory training- 20 board students completed one Short Case each which met the College's satisfactory standards. The pilot psychotherapy service is now up-and-running and has started to see patients. We are planning an intensive Family therapy training event next year.

5. 'Training the Trainer' event at the Iraqi Board of Medical Specialization in Baghdad, November 2011

This visit was led by one ISC member. It was attended by 21 trainers from different specialities and covered: Adult Learning, Large group teaching, Small group Teaching, Individual teaching, Giving Feedback, Designing a Training Programme, Assessment & Evaluation and Microteaching. The feedback was excellent with a request to repeat the course.

6. DelPHE- Iraq Programme: Improving the quality of Undergraduate Medical Education

The DelPHE- Iraq Programme started in 2009. It supports partnerships between higher education institutions in Iraq and UK and is funded by Department for International Development and managed by the British Council. Currently there are two projects:

1. Kufa Medical School with Leicester Medical School- facilitated by one ISC member.
2. Baghdad Medical School with Nottingham Medical School- facilitated by one ISC member.

The overall aim is to modernise and improve medical education and the objectives are:

- Curriculum Redesign
- Initiating changes to the exam system
- Providing an opportunity for Iraqi academics to visit British Universities to observe teaching practices
- Developing policies for staff promotion and training
- Increasing the representation of female academics

There have been a number of meetings and workshops as part of the two projects. The curriculum is being reviewed in Baghdad medical school while Kufa medical school has started to introduce the integrated curriculum.