

Risk Assessment Completion by Whipps Cross University Hospital Psychiatric Liaison Team – A Quality Improvement Project

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Aims and Hypothesis

To increase the completion of risk assessments to 90-100% within Whipps Cross Liaison Psychiatry Service by August 2020.

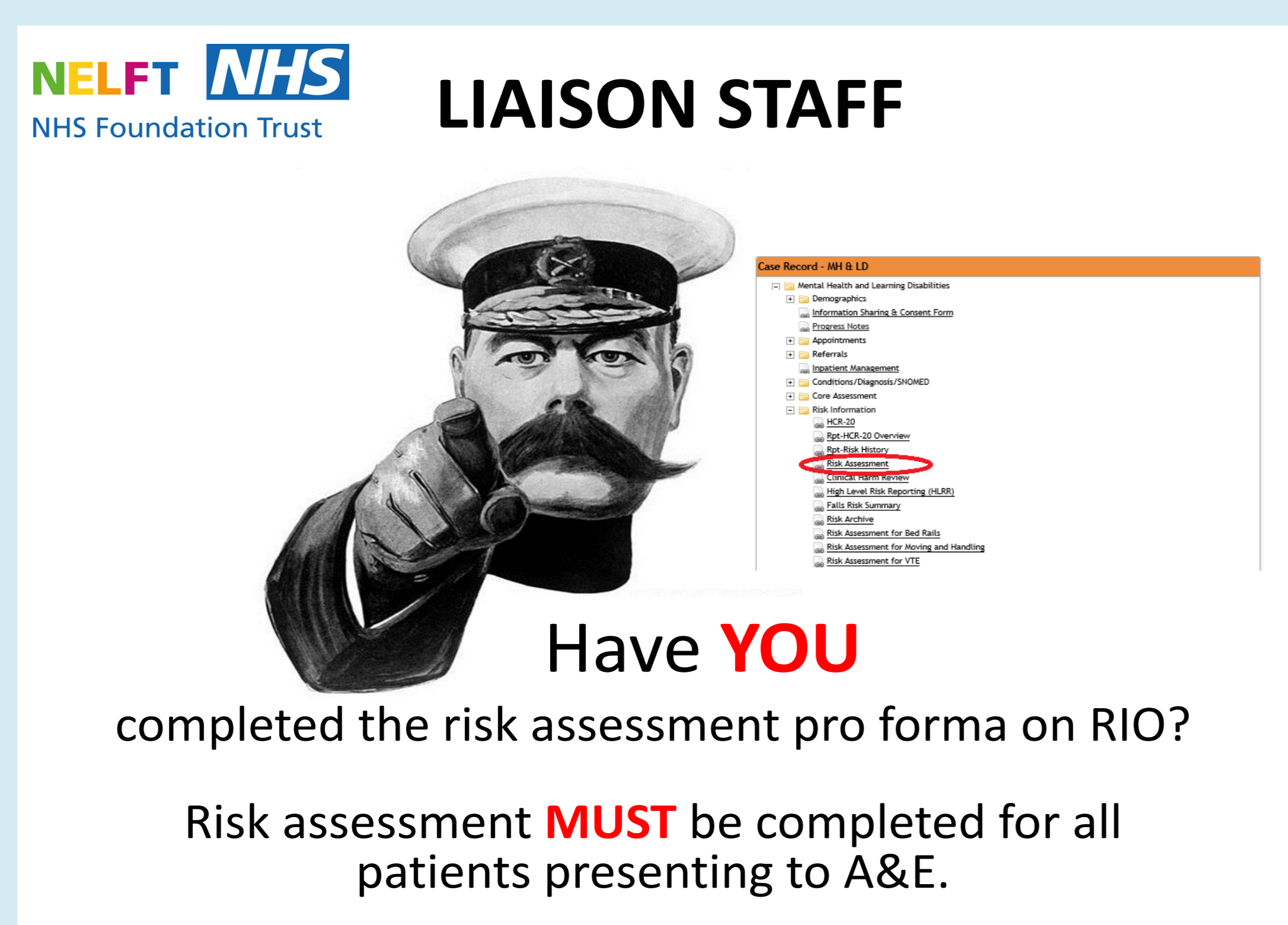
Background

The risk assessment pro forma is not always completed following initial assessment of a patient by the Psychiatric Liaison Service. A previous audit completed on the 23/04/2018 showed a risk assessment completion rate of 70% (21/30). Incomplete risk assessments were by both doctors and nurses (4 doctors and 5 nurses).

Methods

The project involved a retrospective case note review of 60 electronic consecutive patient records on RIO over two cycles. Patients referred onto the caseload from 12AM 01/04/20 (Cycle one) AND 12AM 29/06/20 (Cycle two) were reviewed. The presence or absence of a risk assessment in the risk folder on RiO was noted, and the corresponding entry in the progress notes was reviewed to assess concordance and whether risk assessment was documented or not. It was also noted whether the risk assessment had been completed by a doctor or a nurse.

Interventions were completed following cycle one. These included a survey that was sent out to doctors exploring attitudes to risk assessment and encouraging completion out of hours. A risk assessment poster was also created, directed at liaison staff and out of hours doctors, and a presentation was given to liaison staff.



Results

Cycle one identified a completion rate of 80% (24/30) with incomplete risks assessment mostly by doctors out of hours (5 doctors and 1 nurse):

Total number reviewed:	30
Adult/older adult referrals	28
CAMHS referrals	2
Number of risk assessments completed or not applicable:	24 (80%)
Number of risk assessments not completed:	6 (20%)
Risk documented in RIO notes (if pro forma not completed)	5 (83.3%)
Incomplete risk assessments by doctor:	5
Incomplete risk assessments by nurse:	1

Cycle two revealed the completion rate increased to 90% (27/30) following interventions. Improvement was seen significantly in out of hours duty doctor practices (2 doctors and 1 nurse):

Total number reviewed:	30
Adult/older adult referrals	28
CAMHS referrals	2
Number of risk assessments completed or not applicable:	27 (90%)
Number of risk assessments not completed:	3 (10%)
Risk documented in RIO notes (if pro forma not completed)	1 (33.33%)
Incomplete risk assessments by doctor:	2
Incomplete risk assessments by nurse:	1

Conclusions

Objective to increase the completion of risk assessment to 90-100% by August 2020 was met. Both doctors and nurses do not complete it and at times no risk assessment is documented anywhere in the patient's notes, which warrants further training to avoid possible adverse outcomes.

Criteria and Standards

NELFT clinical risk assessment and management policy (2017)
 Department of Health, best practice in managing risk (2007)