

Improving patient engagement in violence risk assessment: an audit of HCR-20 collaboration within a Medium Secure Unit

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Aims & Hypotheses

- The HCR-20 is well established as a key tool in the assessment and management of violence risk within secure services in the UK.
- However our hypothesis is that the majority of patients are not aware of, or involved in, the completion of assessments of their level of violence risk.
- The aim of this audit was to re-establish a baseline of current patient engagement in violence risk assessment and to inform ongoing projects to improve that level of engagement.

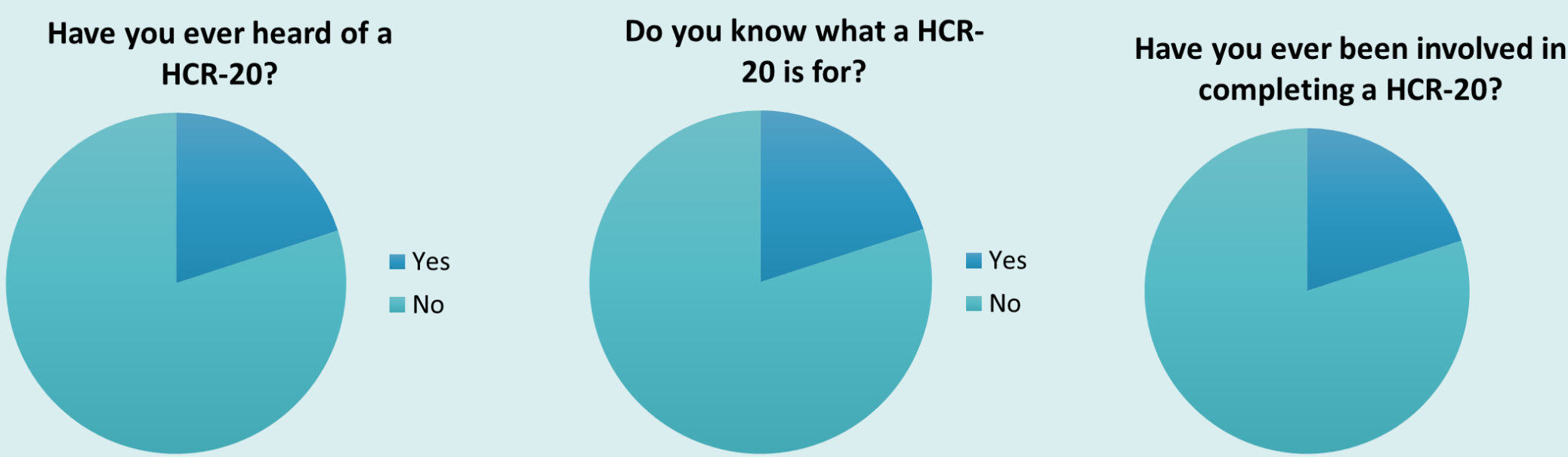
Background

- Despite the HCR-20 guidance advocating for the involvement of patient’s in their own assessments, professionals often complete assessments without the direct involvement of patients; potentially missing the opportunity to begin working proactively and collaboratively with the patient to address their own risk factors.
- In 2019, an initial small scale survey of this topic which demonstrated low levels of patient engagement. In 2021 this unit wide audit was co-ordinated as the first step in a wider project to improve patient engagement in violence risk assessment.

Method

- In November 2021 we completed an audit of the electronic clinical records of all current inpatients within Ravenswood House MSU to ascertain when the HCR-20 was last updated and who was invited to contribute.
- We then surveyed the patients with 3 yes/no questions on their awareness of the HCR-20 with the additional space for free-text questions to add further qualitative value.

2019 Results

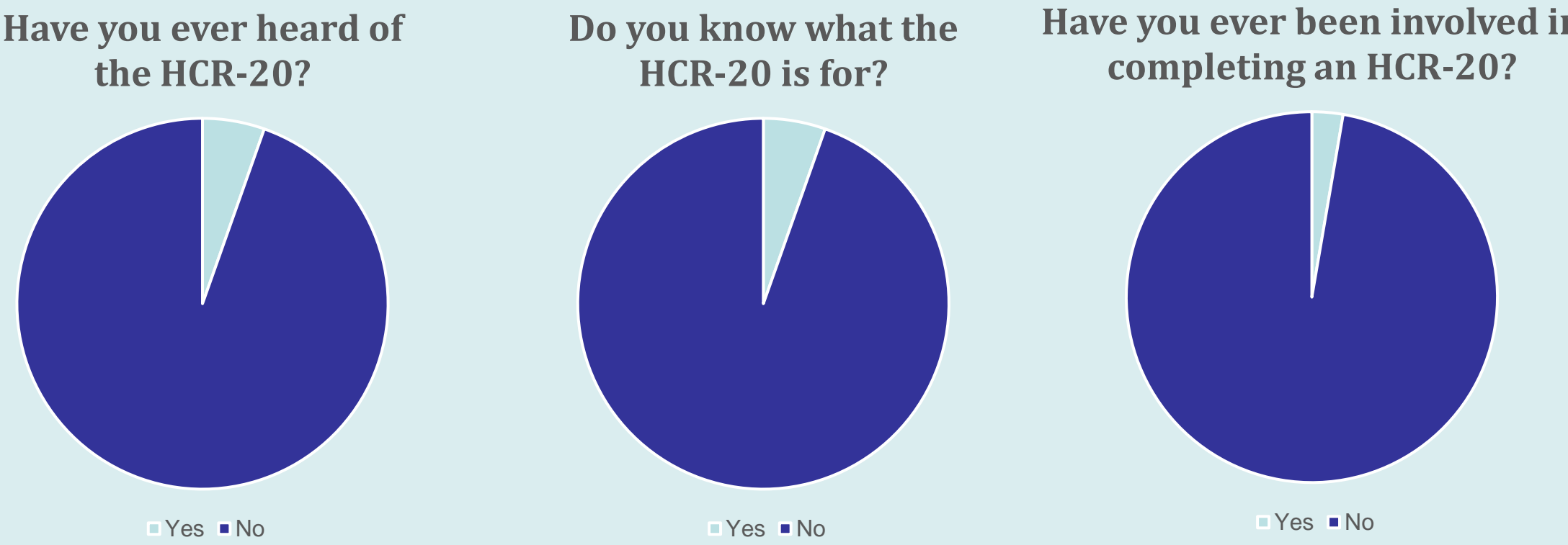


- Of the 10 patients surveyed in 2019, 8 patients reported that they had never heard of an HCR-20, that they did not know what an HCR-20 was for and that they had never been involved in completing one.
- The 2 patients who answered that they did know what a HCR-20 was, were also the same 2 patients who knew the purpose of the assessment and also reported that they could recall being involved in one.

2021 Results

- 35 of the 37 patients surveyed had never heard of an HCR-20, were not aware of it’s purpose and 36 had never been involved in one.
- Several patient’s expressed an interest in being collaboratively involved in assessment in the future.
- We also examined which members of the MDT were present when HCR-20 assessments were completed. The frequency of which the patient and the individual members of the MDT were present can be seen in the table below;

Patient	Psychiatrist	Psychologist	Occupational Therapist	Nursing Staff
5%	100%	48%	35%	8%



Discussion and Conclusions

It is evident that there is significant ground to make up in patient understanding of assessments that are completed about them. There has not been a significant change in results since the initial small scale survey in 2019.

There is a clear opportunity to increase collaboration between the MDT and the patient’s for whom they care. Involving the patient in their own violence risk assessments, as well as more consistently obtaining a holistic view of the clinical picture by actively involving Nursing staff, Occupational Therapists and Psychologist we are likely to increase the quality of our assessments and therefore their value in practice. By doing so we believe that we can work collaboratively to reduce their risk of future violence and significantly contribute to reducing the length of stay within secure services.