

Audit: Do clinicians appropriately follow the MAPPA referrals process guidelines?

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1. Background

MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) is the set of arrangements through which the Police, Probation and Prison Services work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community in order to protect the public. MAPPA guidance states that the MAPPA coordinator should be notified of all eligible patients within three days of transfer to the Trust's care using the appropriate form. This audit reviewed the Gloucestershire Health and Care (GHC) NHS Foundation Trust's compliance with the MAPPA referrals and notification process.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims of the audit were

- To ascertain whether all eligible patients under the care of GHC NHS Foundation Trust on forensic sections and Community treatment orders (CTO) & previously detained on a forensic section of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 were referred to MAPPA services.
- To assess the appropriateness of the MAPPA referral and notification process within GHC NHS Foundation Trust.

3. Methods

- The sample for the audit was all patients under forensic sections & previously under a forensic section or CTO and open to mental health services in GHC NHS Foundation Trust between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020.
- In total there were 23 patients on the above mentioned conditions, 16 (70%) were male and 7 (30%) were female.
- The data was analysed by GHC NHS Foundation Trust's Clinical Audit Manager

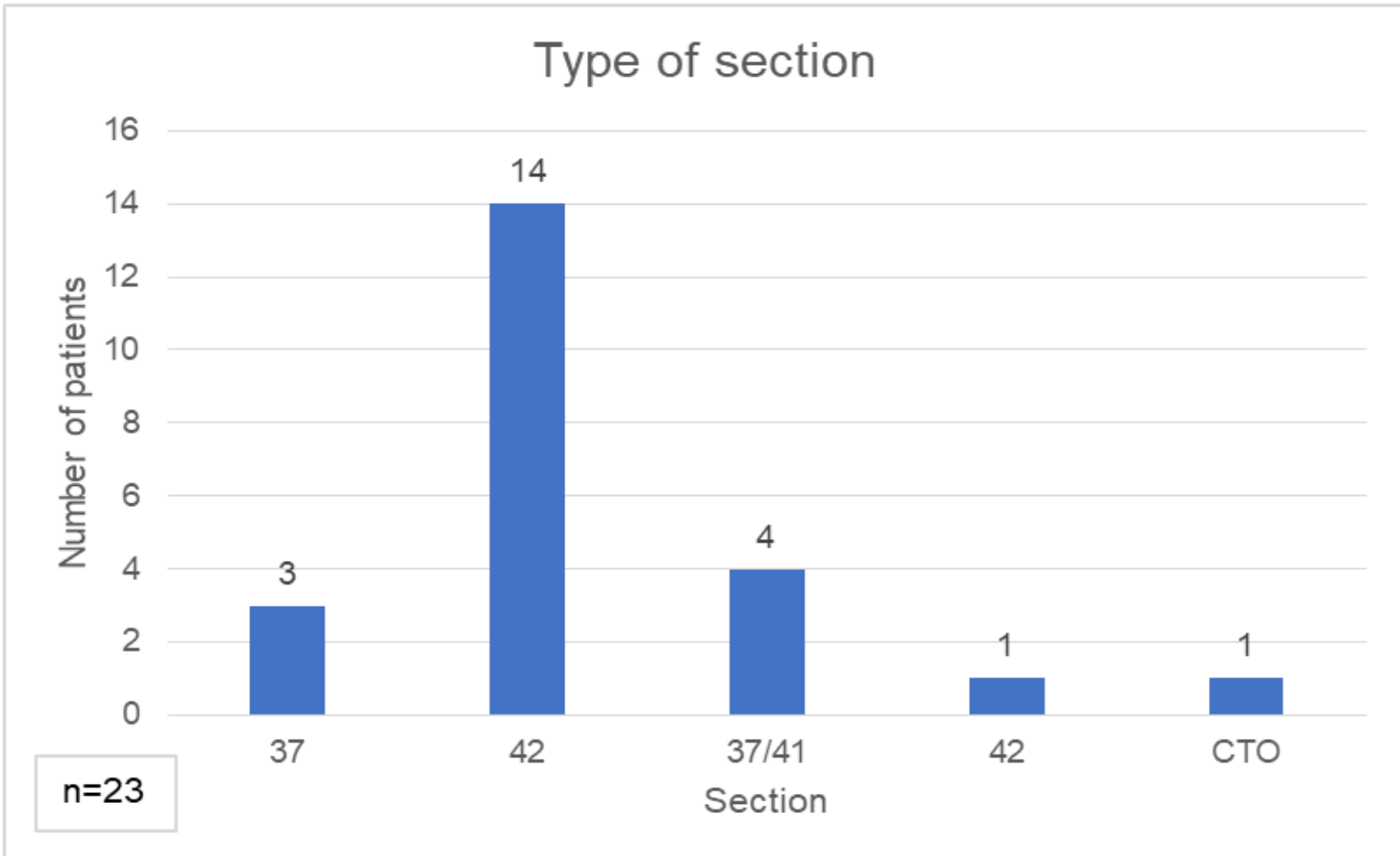


Fig 1. Number of patients under different sections of Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983

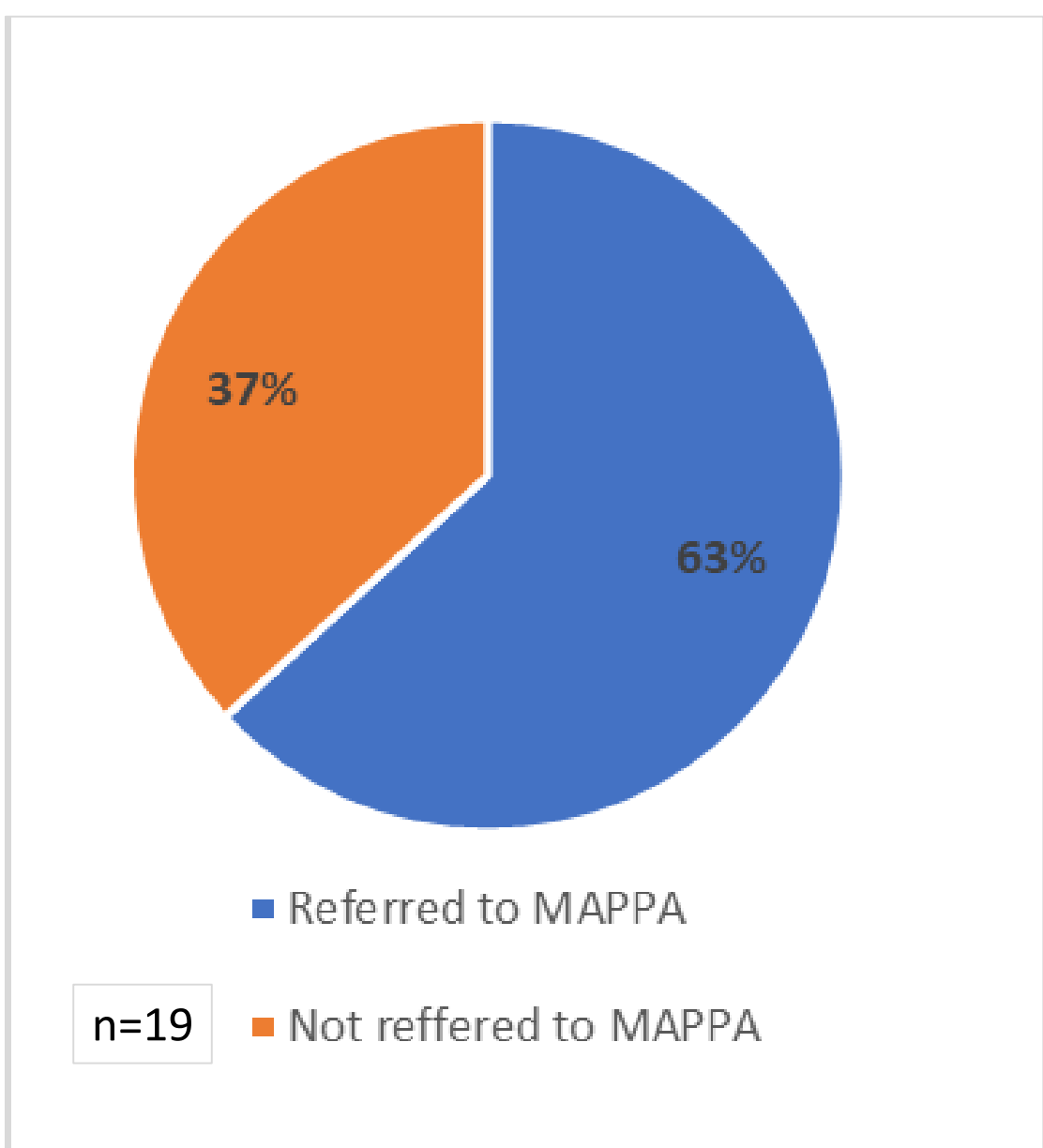


Fig 2. Proportion of eligible patients referred to MAPPA

4. Results

- 19 patients out of a total of 23 were eligible for MAPPA. Of these 19 patients, 12 (63%) were referred to MAPPA. This requires improvement.
- It is thought that this low compliance with MAPPA guidance was because of low awareness of the eligibility criteria and the process of referral.

5. Conclusions

- Since the completion of the audit teaching sessions have been conducted to increase MAPPA awareness between clinicians, a GHC NHS Foundation Trust policy has been written regarding the MAPPA referral process and the MAPPA forms have been made more accessible to clinicians on the electronic patient records.
- Also the team is currently in the process of organising a notification system whereby the Medical Records department will notify the Responsible Clinician when a patient is on a forensic section (MHA 1983).
- A re-audit is currently being undertaken for the period from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

References:

MAPPA Guidance. 2012. Version 4. Ministry of Justice: National Offender Management Service

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