

Utilisation of 'Mental Health Transfer Checklist' Proforma, during Transfer from Acute Medical Hospitals (Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust-LUHFT) to Psychiatric Hospitals (Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust-MCFT).

Audit (08/2018-01/2019) and Re-Audit (08/2019-01/2020)

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Community and Mental Health Services

Background

- Development of the proforma occurred following serious incidents in which medically unstable patients were prematurely deemed medically fit and discharged to Psychiatric Hospitals (PHs). This led to readmission to Acute Medical Hospitals (AMHs), with inadequate handover between services being the main identifiable cause.

Examples

- Mental health patient with skin lesions was transferred from A&E to PH as having cigarette burns later found to be impetigo.
- Patient with hallucinations and delusions was declared as MFFD, later found to have raised inflammatory markers and treated for encephalitis.
- Patient transferred to PH with IV cannula in situ.

- The checklist was designed to improve safety of patient transfer from AMHs to PHs through ensuring patients are medically ready and by improving communication between the two trusts.

- An audit was conducted to check the compliance of the use of the checklist.

Aims

- Testing the compliance and completion rate of a 'Mental Health Transfer Checklist' Proforma created in accordance with local hospital policies.

Methods

- Data were collected retrospectively from 08/2018-01/2019 and again from 08/2019-01/2020.
- Notes were obtained from Mersey Care electronic systems.
- Notes were scrutinised for presence of the proforma, quality of completion, number and reasons for readmission from MCFT to LUHFT following medical optimization.
- Readmissions were defined as admissions to LUHFT up to one month following discharge with evidence of on-going concerns.

Mental Health Transfer Checklist

- A tool created to ensure **safe patient transfer** as well as improve **communication** and **teamwork** between staff (of AMHs and PHs).
- 3 pages to be filled in by medical doctor with 11 questions including:

Red flags (e.g. NG tube/cannula in situ, GCS <12, D&V in last 48h)

Amber flags (e.g. raised inflammatory markers, hourly physical obs, MEWS >5)

Overview of **physical observations**

- ❖ **Mobility**
- ❖ **Falls risk**
- ❖ **Sensory impairment**
- ❖ **DNACPR/ ceiling of care**
- ❖ **Who to contact** should physical health of patient change

- Part of *MerseyCare Discharge and Transfer of Care Policy* and *Hospital Mental Health Liaison-Core 24 Policy*.

Results

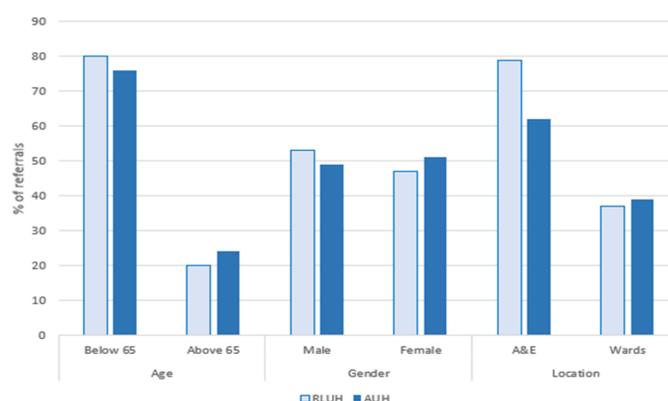
Referrals

Hospital	Audit Period		Re-audit Period	
	RLUH	AUH	RLUH	AUH
Number of referrals to Liaison Services	2897	3628	2992	2674
Pts under secondary MHS	809 (28%)	961 (26%)	Data not collected	Data not collected
Pts with Hx of previous referrals to MH team	2207(76%)	2721 (74%)	2134 (71%)	1974 (75%)

Demographics

Hospital		Audit Period		Re-audit Period	
		RLUH	AUH	RLUH	AUH
Age	Below 65	2370 (82%)	2919 (80%)	2405 (80%)	2022 (76%)
	Above 65	527 (18%)	763 (20%)	587 (20%)	652 (24%)
Gender	Male	1470 (51%)	1790 (49%)	1576 (53%)	1309 (49%)
	Female	1425 (49%)	1886 (51%)	1416 (47%)	1365 (51%)
Location	A&E	2006 (69%)	2371 (64%)	1888 (63%)	1644 (62%)
	Wards	891 (31%)	1311 (36%)	1104 (37%)	1030 (39%)

Demographics of those referred to liaison services



Results

Admissions

Hospital		Audit Period		Re-audit Period	
		RLUH	AUH	RLUH	AUH
Total admissions		191 (6.6% of referrals)	196 (5.3% of referrals)	90 (3.0% of referrals)	70 (2.7% of referrals)
	Admission Types	128 (67%)	125 (63%)	46 (51%)	36 (51%)
	S2	44 (23%)	55 (28%)	38 (42%)	28 (40%)
	S3	19 (10%)	16 (9%)	6 (7%)	6 (9%)

Proforma completion

	Audit Period	Re-audit Period
Number of forms present	14/387 (3.6%)	69/160 (43.1%)

Readmission rates

	Audit Period	Re-audit Period
Rate of readmission	30/387 (7.8%)	7/160 (4.3%)
Pts readmitted due to acute ongoing health problem	3/30 (10%)	1/7 (14.3%)

Conclusion

- Number of referrals to Liaison services were more even during the re audit period.
- 73% of patients referred to Liaison services had been previously referred to mental health team.
- Majority of referrals were from A&E in those aged under 65. M=F.
- 2.9% of referrals to Liaison went on to have a PH admission- **a decrease from previous year** of which 51% were informal- **Decrease from previous year.**
- Majority of MHA Admissions were Section 2 (as per previous year)
- 43% of admissions had the proforma present, **Substantial increase from previous year.**
- 4% of patients admitted to PHs were readmitted to AMHs. **This is a reduction in readmission.**
- Higher % of patients that represented to AMHs for physical health problems were **readmitted for on-going acute medical problems.**
- This is an increase in % but conferred to less cases due to a reduction in number of readmissions.

Recommendations

- Further education to staff in PHs & AMHs about the proforma.
- Re-audit in 12 months time as 100% standard not achieved.
- Use of standardised name i.e. Mental health transfer checklist Proforma when uploading form on electronic notes.