

Safeguarding Adults with Incapacity: review of documents assessing capacity and treatment needs

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Aim and Hypothesis

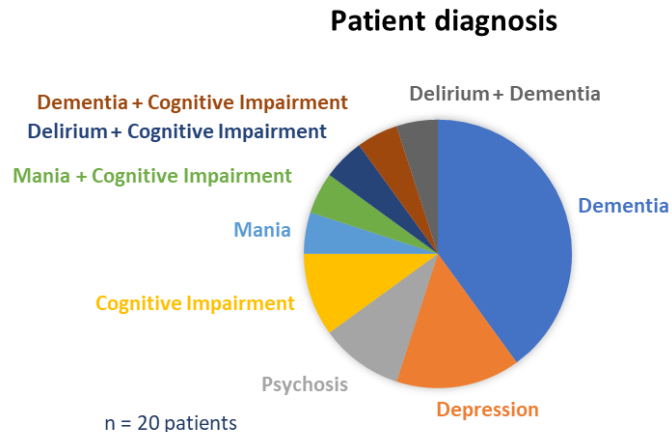
To audit the completion of Adults with Incapacity (AWI) documents (Assessment of Capacity, Section 47 Certificate of Incapacity and Treatment Plan) to ensure they met the legal standards required. We hypothesised that the forms were not all completed comprehensively, particularly the Treatment Plans.

Background

In addition to being legal documents, AWI documents provide an important framework to guide clinicians in balancing patient safety with patient autonomy. Correctly completed documents help provide vulnerable patients with ethical and lawful treatment.

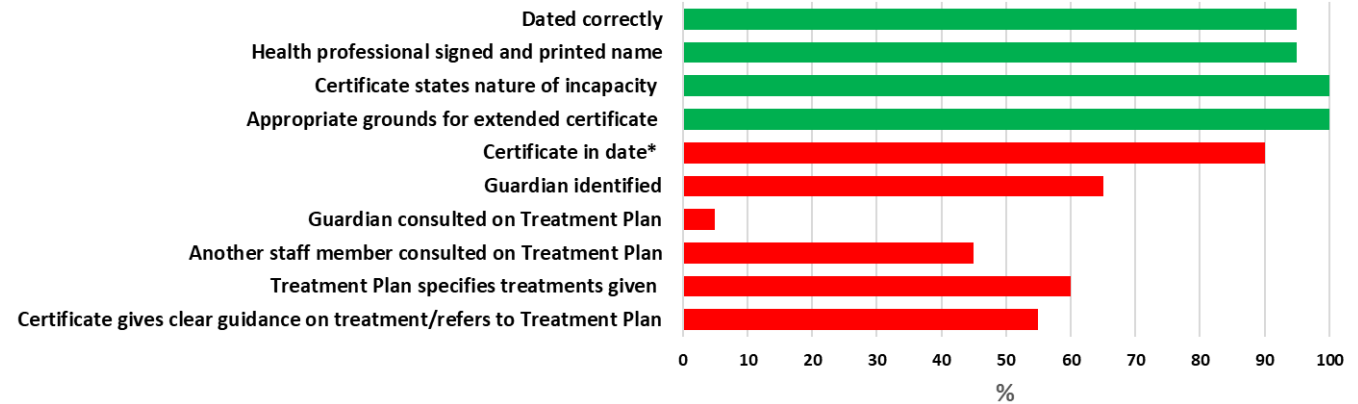
Methods

An audit was conducted across two Old Age Psychiatry wards at Ayrshire Central Hospital during October 2020. We assessed all AWI Documents available (n=20) using criteria based on the standards set by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland to ensure legal competence.



Results

Percentage of criteria completed on the Adults With Incapacity documents



*Green bars represent 90% or more of the criteria completed satisfactorily. Red bars are less than 90% completed satisfactorily except for the 'certificate in date' criteria where the cut-off was set at 100%. N=20

Conclusions

The forms were generally dated and signed correctly, with the nature of incapacity stated and appropriate grounds for extended certificates. The areas that require improvement are:

- Identifying and discussing plans with a guardian
- Specifying treatment covered by the Certificate of Incapacity and the Treatment Plan
- Ensuring forms are in date

We intend to improve the completion of these documents by implementing regular teaching and a guidance poster based on key areas identified and completing the audit cycle.