

Psychiatric Liaison Accreditation Network (PLAN) and how it can benefit acute hospitals

Liaison Psychiatry (also known as Psychological Medicine or Mental Health Liaison) is the specialty of psychiatry that operates in acute hospitals. The Psychiatric Liaison Accreditation Network (PLAN) is run by the College Centre for Quality Improvement in the Royal College of Psychiatrists. It provides an external peer-review process to assess quality of services as well as supporting service development and access to professional development.

What does PLAN offer acute hospitals?

PLAN assesses your mental health service across the hospital against recognised standards for governance processes, assessment, education and staffing.

- Accreditation provides external assurance on the quality of the Liaison Psychiatry Service.
- Accreditation by PLAN is recognised by the Care Quality Commission as a marker of quality of mental health provision in acute hospitals.
- The review process helps to identify areas where standards are not met and give suggestions of how these may be achieved.
- Monthly educational events (one hour virtual teaching and three one day conferences a year) that are virtual and are available free for Acute Hospital staff in hospitals with a PLAN enrolled Liaison Psychiatry service.
- Educational events are available on a platform, Knowledge Hub, to be viewed at the convenient time for staff who cannot attend the live event.
- Opportunity to be elected onto the PLAN Advisory Group which discusses and plans ways to enhance the offering of PLAN to member services.
- Access to Knowledge Hub, an online forum where colleagues can network, share ideas and areas of best practice.



Promote quality improvement and share best practice



Help services plan improvements for the future



Build a community of organisations who can learn from one another



Allow services to benchmark their practices against other similar services



Demonstrate the quality of the organisation's processes through accreditation



Encourage a culture of openness and create a model of engagement

Why is mental health a core part of acute hospital business?

Mental health needs in acute hospitals are very common on wards and in out-patients e.g. self-harm, depression, dementia, complex adjustment reactions, people with severe mental illness have higher rate of long term conditions.

How does improved mental health care benefit Acute Hospitals?

- Improved patient flow and reduced bed days.
- Reduction of clinical and organisational risks
- Improved staff well-being via reduced stress from managing conditions outside their expertise.

Case example of benefits

Mr Smith, a 63 year old man judged as a delayed discharged due to poor engagement with rehabilitation after a hip fracture. When seen by Liaison Psychiatry he was diagnosed with severe depression and started on treatment. His engagement improved and he was discharged home two weeks later.

National Recommendations

Treat as One (NCEPOD 2017)

- PLAN accredited Liaison Psychiatry team was associated with improved quality of care for patients with mental health needs in the acute trust

Ignoring the alarms: How NHS eating disorder services are failing patients

- (Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman 2017)
- Avoidable deaths occur due to lack of knowledge amongst physicians and general psychiatrists.

Assessment of mental health services in acute trusts (CQC 2020)

- Acute trusts should have a mental health strategy, have mental health frequently considered by Trust Boards and have mental health services reaching nationally recognised standards
- Training should be provided that gives staff the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence for meeting people's mental health needs.

How you can join PLAN



www.rcpsych.ac.uk/PLAN



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PLAN

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