

# NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN PSYCHIATRY PATIENTS ON ADMISSION: AN AUDIT CYCLE

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## INTRODUCTION

Physical examination of psychiatric patients is an essential component linked to their mental health

The principle objective of a neurological examination is localization. A working knowledge of neuroanatomy greatly helps the clinician in conducting the examination. Psychotropic drugs are known to cause many neurological side effects which can be picked up during a thorough physical examination and help alter the management plan if needed. GUIDELINES:

According to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board admission protocol regarding physical examination of psychiatric patients on admission, the neurological exam should comprise of tone, power, sensation, reflexes, pupil examination and cranial nerves examination.

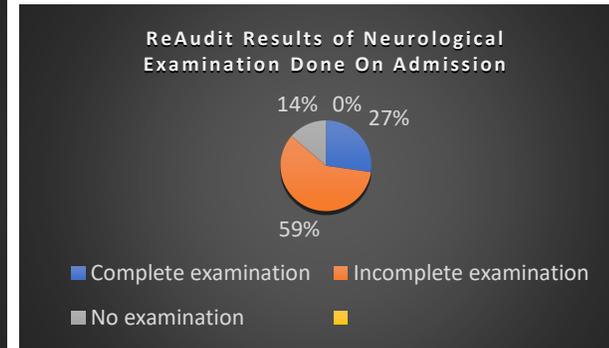
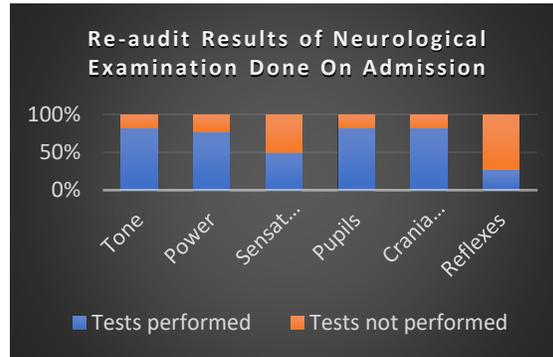
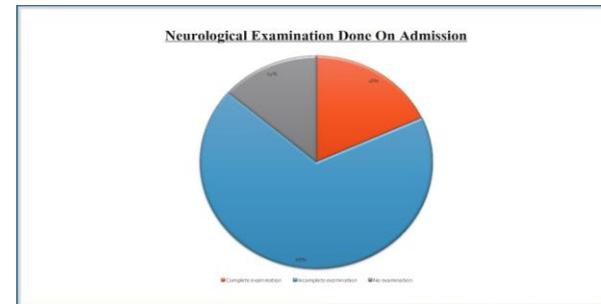
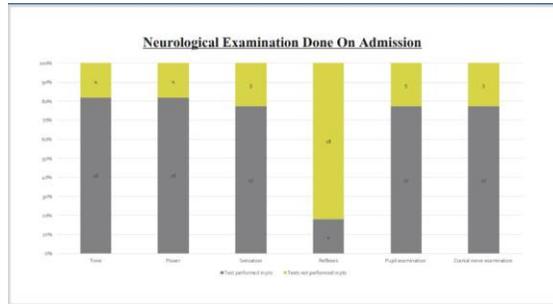
## AIM

To assess whether the screening neurological examination was fully performed as part of the physical health assessment on patients admitted to acute mental health ward  
To highlight the importance of the neurological examination aspect in order to enhance patient outcome by ruling out any organic etiology

## METHOD

A cross-sectional review of all 22 inpatients at Talygarn unit, general adult acute psychiatric ward in April 2020  
Patient records were explored using the Aneurin Bevan Health Board admission proformas to identify extent of neurological examination completion

## Results of Audit and Reaudit in Nov 2020



## RESULTS:

- The data collected demonstrated that out of 22 in-patients at Talygarn General Adult Acute Psychiatry Ward in 82% patients tone and power was examined, while in 77% patients sensation, pupils and cranial nerves were tested. The least performed test was reflexes which was done in only 18% patients
- In 18% patients, the neurological examination was completed thoroughly whereas it was incomplete in about 68% patients. However, no neurological examination was performed in nearly 14% patients.

Results from re-audit

The data collected demonstrated that out of 22 in-patients at Talygarn General Adult Acute Psychiatry Ward, around 80% patients tone and power was examined which remained similar to previous results, while there was a drop in sensation being tested with a result of 50% patients. Overall in 27% patients, the neurological examination was completed thoroughly which highlighted an improvement as compared to only 18% in prior audit. Incomplete examination was found in about 59% patients. This is a better outcome in comparison to the last results where incomplete examination made up 68% of patients.

## CONCLUSIONS

As can be seen objectively from the data, there was an overall improvement in completion of neurological examinations that had been done fully, with a reduction in the number of incomplete examinations after the action plan was implemented

Tone and power remained well examined, as well as cranial nerves and pupils. Reflexes continue to remain poorly examined and it is possible that factors such as poor access to tendon hammers or reluctance to complete the examination given patient non compliance may be a factor.

## REFERENCES

- Hodgson Rand Adeyemo, (2004) Physical examination performed by psychiatrists. International Journal of Psychiatry in Clinical practice.
- Hodgson R, Belgaumwar M and Krishna S Where's my stethoscope, survey. Progress in neurology and psychiatry 10:9-11

