

SIDE-EFFECT MONITORING FOR PATIENTS ON DEPOT ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATION WITHIN A COMMUNITY TREATMENT TEAM

Introduction

NICE guidelines recommend monitoring and recording of side effects of treatment for patients commenced on antipsychotic medications (1). These vary for different antipsychotic medications but include: sedation, agitation, extrapyramidal side effects and weight gain amongst others.

One mean of assessing and recording these side effects is through the use of the Glasgow Antipsychotic Side-Effect Scale (GASS) (2) which allows for monitoring of both individual side effects experienced, the burden of these on the patient and also an overall score which can be used to track symptoms over time.

Aims

This audit was completed to determine whether the community treatment team (CTT) were meeting the following three trust standards (3,4) for patients receiving antipsychotic depot medication:

- 100% of patients should have side effects monitored using a validated scoring system in the form of the Glasgow Antipsychotic Side-effect Scale (GASS) once yearly.
- 100% of patients should have had a GASS completed ever
- 100% of patients with a completed GASS should have this document available in full

Additionally, adherence to these measures was compared to the previous year's audit to assess for change following interventions and change in documentation.

Method

An initial list of patients receiving antipsychotic medication via depot administration from the CTT was generated. Patients were excluded as per set criteria to allow for comparison with the previous year and the audit window set, 127 patients were included in the final audit. Patient records on RiO Electronic Patient Records were reviewed using progress notes, core clinical documents, depot administration records, GASS form, uploaded documents and the Health Information Exchange. Data were recorded in excel for documentation and analysis and to provide an updatable list for ongoing monitoring of GASS completion.

Results

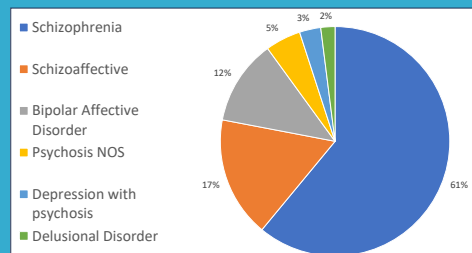
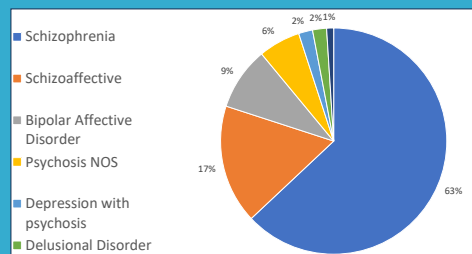
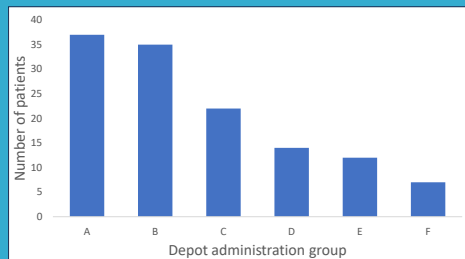
Patient Demographics

2022 Audit

Youngest patient: 23
Oldest patient: 75
Mean age: 49
Gender distribution: 71% Male 29% Female

2023 Audit

Youngest patient: 22
Oldest patient: 76
Mean age: 50 (with a normal distribution)
Gender Distribution: 69% male 31% Female



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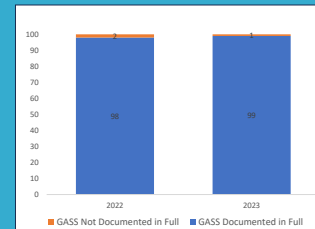
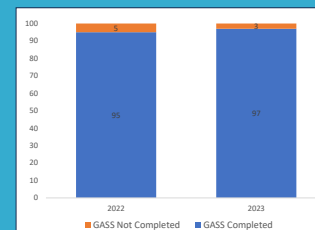
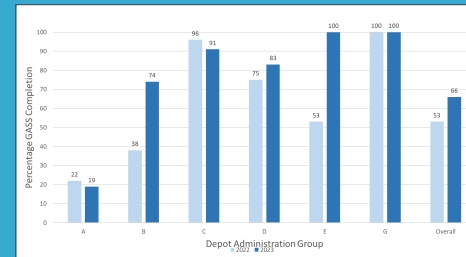


Table 1: Summary of compliance with trust standards

Standards	Compliance 2022	Compliance 2023
100% of patients should have a GASS completed yearly	53%	66%
100% of patients should have a GASS completed ever	95%	97%
100% of patients with a completed GASS should have this document available in full	98%	99%

Conclusions and Actions Taken

Improvement was noted across all three standards compared to the previous year. The CTT are not achieving the goal of 100% for any of the targeted standards. Significant variations were seen across depot administration groups. Whilst not explicitly analysed it was noted there was a notable degree of variation across different depot administrators.

Up to date list of patient's receiving depot antipsychotic medication, and dates of most recent GASS completion were supplied to physical health team. Outcomes were discussed at the team MDT in addition to discussing different techniques seen from care providers for ensuring GASS were completed yearly.

References

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- Waddell L, Taylor M. A new self-rating scale for detecting atypical or second-generation antipsychotic side effects. Journal of Psychopharmacology. 2008;22(3):238-243. doi:10.1177/0269881107087976
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