

CLAHRCBITE

Brokering Innovation Through Evidence

TITLE: Examining the role of multiple clinical and non-clinical factors on decisions to admit patients to acute psychiatric units



Cheshire and Wirral Partnership 
NHS Foundation Trust

This study set out to identify factors (both disorder/patient-based and wider contextual) influencing clinicians decisions to arrange acute psychiatric admissions.

Background

The substantial evidence base examining effectiveness of mental health provision focuses on macro-interventions (e.g. a course of medication, therapy or team level input), at the expense of the role of wider clinical activities (e.g. assessment, follow-up contacts, referrals, admissions) which can equally effect patient outcomes and experience. Of these less therapeutically specific activities, admission to hospital is one of the most significant in terms of patient-experience, micro-therapeutic opportunities (e.g. advice, education, experience of positive interactions, instillation of hope), and resource utilisation. Clinical experience suggests significant variability between clinicians in the way they decide to arrange acute admissions, which makes (i) assessing effectiveness, and (ii) predicting, managing, responding to pressures on resources, difficult. Studies of clinical decision making tend to concentrate on disorder/patient-based factors, whereas a theoretical role of wider contextual factors has been reported.

Who was involved?

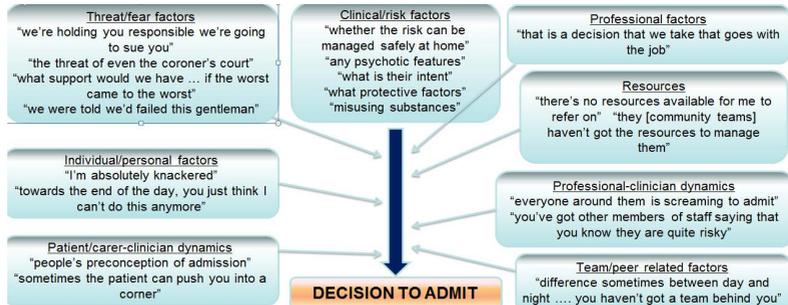
A specialist nurse completed the research as part of a CLAHRC NWC PPP internship programme (Feb 2017-Feb 2018) and a service user was involved in all aspects of the project from the planning, design, interviewing, data analysis and dissemination.

What did we do?

In this study, focus groups were conducted to explore clinician views and perspectives on the decision-making made by health professionals to admit service users onto inpatient acute psychiatric wards. A purposive sample of clinicians were interviewed from the Cheshire Wirral Partnership NHS Trust service area in a group setting using a semi-structured guide to elicit discussions about clinical decision-making in the identified pathway. Focus group discussions were used for guiding participants to explore the circumstances and factors which have influenced decisions resulting in an inpatient admission. Staff experienced in qualitative methods co-facilitated participation of focus group sessions with the following five groups: Psychiatric liaison team, Home treatment team, Approved Mental Health Professionals and On-call consultants. Clinicians were recruited from across the three areas of the trust – Wirral, Chester and Macclesfield.

What we found and what does this mean?

The project has highlighted these factors that influence decisions about whether or not to admit patients.



What next?

We have begun to disseminate the findings from this evaluation locally and nationally within meetings, conferences and peer reviewed published papers. Our psychiatric trainees and team managers have received training on research methodologies, evidence synthesis data collection and analysis and dissemination of research and are using these skills in further research.

Partners / Stakeholders

What is NIHR CLAHRC NWC?

The mission of the NIHR CLAHRC NWC is to work collaboratively with Partner organisations and other stakeholders including members of the public to co-produce and conduct high-quality, leadership enhancing, applied research designed to decrease health inequalities and improve the health of the population of the North West Coast.

Find out more

<http://www.clahrc-nwc.nihr.ac.uk/index.php>

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