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Aims

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Background

In January 2017, NCEPOD published a report on mental health in general hospitals: ‘Treat as one’. This was mainly derived by the need to bridge the gap between mental and physical health care in general hospitals. Specifically the report recommends that the Liaison psychiatry review should provide clear and concise documented plans in the general hospital notes at the time of assessment. The standards are in figure 1.

Methods

In October 2017 the A&E notes of 31 working age adults (18-65) were audited against NCEPOD standards at Frimley Park Hospital. Then in September 2018 this was repeated for 30 patients at St Peters Hospital. We noted there had been limited improvement and therefore developed a proforma to capture this information and improve overall quality of A&E notes.

Results

The documentation which both liaison teams perform close to the expected standards are recording a discharge plan and within the St Peters Liaison Team a risk assessment is well recorded. Areas for improvement are the recording of a diagnosis/formulation and the recording of mental capacity. There is a need to formalise the collection of this data through a proforma which in time could be made electronic to improve legibility of written communication.

Discussion

Overall areas of better performance are risk assessment and discharge plan and this is an expected finding given this is the focus following an assessment within A&E. Through the use of a proforma areas of documentation which are more neglected is likely to improve and we are in the process of introducing this within the St Peters Liaison Team with a longer term plan following this pilot to provide this across the county.

The recording of mental capacity is less than 30% and within the Mental Capacity Act the presumption of capacity is a key principle and this may be why the recording of this is poor. Further study of the recording of capacity in those requiring acute psychiatric care would be indicated as this is the group where capacity is more likely to be impaired and will impact the care plans. We plan to repeat this following implementation of the proforma.

Figure 1: NCEPOD Treat as One minimum guidelines for general hospital notes made at time of assessment

Figure 2: Percentage of A&E notes which record diagnosis/formulation, capacity, risk assessment and discharge plan at Frimley Park Hospital (FPH), St Peters Hospital (ASPH) and the mean percentage for the sample.

Figure 3: Proforma developed for use by liaison staff when they assess patients within A&E which contains the minimum data set required by NCEPOD Treat as One Standards.