

National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death

# Guy's and St Thomas' NHS

Bridge the gap

## Audit of the NCEPOD "Treat as One" Recommendations on an Acute Admissions Ward Achieving Better Access to Mental Health Services by 2020

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**Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust** 

## **Background**

10-20 years of potential life lost in severe mental illness3

Excess deaths attributable to physical illnesses in over three quarters of cases4

## **Key Results**

Recognising co-existing mental health conditions

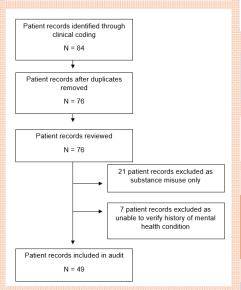
Cardiovascular disease is the major cause of

death in persons with severe mental illness<sup>5</sup>



### **Methods**

Population = patients admitted to the Acute Admissions Ward at St Thomas' Hospital, London with co-existing mental health conditions in January 2018



Data extracted from hospital records onto Treat As One Audit Tool

Was the mental health condition documented on the ED clerking?

Was the mental health

the medical admission

clerking?

Was the mental health

condition noted on the

discharge summary?

Was the patient admitted to hospital with a list of medications for their physical health condition (where applicable)?

condition documented on

Was the patient admitted to hospital with a list of medication for their mental health condition (where applicable)?

- Coexisting mental health problems are not recognised by emergency department and medical doctors in over one-third of patients
- Prescribed medications for mental health conditions are potentially not recognised by medical doctors when a drug history is taken in over onethird of patients

misuse

**Recognising** smoking and alcohol Supporting smoking cessation

#### **Tobacco history**

Unknown	Never smoked	Ex-smoker	Current smoker
23 47%	11 (22%)	4 (8%)	11 (22%)

#### Alcohol history

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Unknown	Misuse	No misuse
31 63%	10 (20%)	8 (16%)

#### Cessation support offered?

Yes	No	N/A
1	8	2

- In patients with co-existing mental health problems, just over half have a documented smoking status, and only one-third have a documented alcohol history
- Almost one-quarter of patients were known to be current smokers, but only 1 patient was referred for smoking cessation support

## Summary

- Co-existing mental health conditions are underrecognized on the Acute Admissions Ward
- A medication for a mental health condition is more likely to be omitted from a drug history than a medication for a physical health condition
- In this group, smoking and alcohol use are being underassessed, and smoking cessation services are being underutilised within the Trust

## Next steps

"I need to ask you the following questions because we know that these things impact on your physical health. Do you have, or have you had, any mental health problems? Do you smoke or drink alcohol?"

I thought you discussed **smoking** cessation?



I thought you did.