

Exploring nurse-patient relationships on acute mental health wards

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Registration date 26/02/2020	Overall study status Stopped	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 01/02/2022	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

This study will explore how nurses and patients interact on acute mental health wards. It will examine factors which may influence interactions and how they develop into relationships. It aims to find out whether the presence or absence of a relationship has any impact on the outcome of inpatient admission. It is part of a programme of work initiated in 2006 with a Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) funded group of mental health experts who developed research ideas specifically investigating acute care.

Healthcare staff and patients on acute mental health wards in one NHS Trust can participate and they will be asked to complete a questionnaire and may be asked to take part in an interview.

Who can participate?

Adult healthcare staff who have responsibility for delivering care to patients on the ward, and all adults patients who have been in hospital for seven days or more.

What does the study involve?

The study will be carried out in three wards in one London mental health trust over a 6 month period and will have two main parts, one in which staff of all professions and patients who have been in hospital for 7 days or more will be asked to complete a questionnaire and another in which they will be interviewed. Based on other studies carried out in these settings the researchers expect that around 40 (75% of total) ward staff will complete the questionnaires. The researchers aim to recruit an equivalent number of patients. The questionnaires will ask about staff levels of burnout and job satisfaction, patient satisfaction with treatment, and both groups' experience of therapeutic relationships and perceptions of the ward environment. The researchers will ask between 4 and 6 nursing staff and a similar number of patients to participate in in-depth interviews to discuss their experience of developing therapeutic relationships. The researchers will also collect information on the number of staff on each shift and incidents of self-harm and violence on the wards.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Benefits: there are no direct benefits to participants other than contributing to knowledge which may help to improve practice in future.

Risks: Interviews and questionnaires may bring up distressing feelings.

Where is the study run from?

The study is run from the University of Essex and will be carried out in South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

April 2020 to January 2022

Who is funding the study?

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust (UK)

Who is the main contact?

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Contact information

Type(s)

Public

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Scientific

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

IRAS number

228720

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers

IRAS 228720

Study information

Scientific Title

An evaluation of factors affecting nurse patient relationships and outcomes in acute mental health inpatient settings

Study objectives

The study aims:

1. To understand the content, context and experience of therapeutic relationships between nurses and patients
2. To analyse associations between key structural factors, a measure of therapeutic relationships and outcomes for patients and nurses

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

1. Approved 16/12/2019, HRA and Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) (Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre, Castlebridge 4, 15-19 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF11 9AB; UK;), ref: 19/LO/1727
2. Approved 18/12/2019, University of Essex REO governance team (), ref: ETH1819-0158

Study design

Single centre mixed methods

Primary study design

Other

Secondary study design

Study setting(s)

Hospital

Study type(s)

Other

Participant information sheet

Not available in web format, please use contact details to request a participant information sheet

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Mental and behavioral disorders

Interventions

Module 1 (no participant involvement): Information which is routinely collected around:

1. Aggression and self-harm
2. Structural measures; required vs actual staffing hours, use of temporary staff, and hours of structured ward programme

Module 2: Questionnaire data will be collected from:

1. All staff from all professional groups working on host wards – measuring ward atmosphere, burnout, teamworking, years of experience, and reported quality of therapeutic relationship. Demographic information on gender, age and ethnicity will also be sought
2. Patients – measuring satisfaction, ward atmosphere, and reported quality of therapeutic relationship. Key demographic data will also be sought, including age, gender, ethnicity and MHA status

Module 3: Individual interviews will be carried out with registered nursing staff and also with patients using a narrative inquiry approach. Participants will be asked to 'tell their story' of being on the ward describe their experience of forming and maintaining therapeutic relationships with registered nurses.

Intervention Type

Mixed

Primary outcome measure

A measure of therapeutic relationships (Scale to Assess Therapeutic Relationships) collected during module 2.

Secondary outcome measures

The measures below will be collected during module 2 of the study:

1. Satisfaction with treatment measured using the Client Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ-8)
2. Ward Atmosphere Scale (WAS)
3. Staff report of burnout and morale measured using the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI)
4. Qualitative data from interviews carried out in module 3 and analysed using a narrative inquiry approach

Overall study start date

01/03/2020

Completion date

01/01/2022

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Healthcare staff:

1. All healthcare staff who have responsibility for delivering care to patients on the ward will be included in the study: nursing staff only will be the focus of module 3

Patients:

1. All patients who have been in hospital for 7 days or more will be eligible to be included in the study, as this will allow an adequate period in which to have experienced life on the ward
2. Only patients thought by staff to have the capacity to give informed consent to the study will be approached, and this will also be checked by the researcher prior to obtaining written consent
3. Only participants who have good command of English will be approached

Participant type(s)

Mixed

Age group

Adult

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

92

Key exclusion criteria

Does not meet inclusion criteria

Date of first enrolment

01/04/2020

Date of final enrolment

01/05/2020

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

England

United Kingdom

Study participating centre**Springfield Hospital**

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

61 Glenburnie Road

London

United Kingdom

SW17 7DJ

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Essex

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Sponsor type

University/education

Website

<https://www.essex.ac.uk>

ROR

<https://ror.org/02nkf1q06>

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

South West London and St George's NHS Trust

Results and Publications**Publication and dissemination plan**

Data from the study will be owned by the sponsor and participating organisation
On completion of the study, the data will be analysed and tabulated and a Final Study Report prepared which will be accessible through the researcher
Results of the study will be presented and discussed at forums within the participating organisation.
All participating investigators will have rights to publish from the study, but only with the agreement of the Chief Investigator.

Intention to publish date

01/06/2022

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The current data sharing plans for this study are unknown and will be available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol file	version v2	19/11/2019	06/03/2020	No	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No