

Using lay health workers to identify and manage common mental disorders using problem solving therapy through a friendship bench in a resource poor setting in Zimbabwe

Submission date 09/07/2010	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 10/01/2011	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 18/12/2020	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title
Locally adapted problem-solving therapy for depression and common mental disorders in primary care in Zimbabwe delivered through lay workers and a Friendship Bench: a pilot study

Acronym

The Friendship Bench Project

Study objectives

There is very limited evidence that sustainable interventions for depression and other common mental disorders (CMD) can be integrated into routine primary health care in Africa. In primary care clinics serving a high density suburb in Harare, a low-cost multi-component 'Friendship Bench Intervention' for CMD, based on problem-solving therapy, was developed to be delivered by trained and supervised female lay workers who were already respected in the community for their outreach role in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis (TB) and health promotion. Our aim was to explore the potential of integrating this low-intensity mental health intervention into the work load of lay workers.

Outcomes included the number of people referred to the service and the number seen by the lay workers, qualitative data from layworkers on the acceptability and feasibility to them of providing this as part of their work load and participant scores pre-post problem solving therapy on the Shona Symptom Questionnaire for common mental health symptoms.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ) REC approved on the 10th August 2006 (ref: MRCZ/A/1307)

Study design

Observational cross-sectional pilot cohort study

Primary study design

Observational

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Depression and common mental disorders

Interventions

All individuals attending a local clinic who were identified by the local nursing staff as needing psychological care were referred to the 'Friendship Bench', a problem solving therapy based intervention run by lay health workers supervised by a clinical psychologist and psychiatrist. Initially all those referred were screened using a locally validated indigenous screening tool, the SSQ. All scoring above the cut-off score of 8+ received six sessions of problem solving therapy delivered over a six week period. All those identified as having severe depression were referred to the psychiatric hospital.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Shona Symptom Questionnaire (SSQ) score after six sessions of problem solving therapy delivered through the friendship bench.

Key secondary outcome(s)

No secondary outcome measures

Completion date

30/12/2009

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Residents of Mbare
2. Aged 16 years and over, either sex
3. Gave written informed consent. Those who were unable to give informed consent but needed mental health services were referred to the clinical psychologist or psychiatrist and their data was not included in the analysis.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

16 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

355

Key exclusion criteria

1. Client requires acute medical attention such that they cannot participate in screening
2. Severe depression with risk features as diagnosed by primary care nurse

Date of first enrolment

01/01/2007

Date of final enrolment

30/12/2009

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Zimbabwe

Study participating centre

37 Baines Ave

Harare

Zimbabwe

CY 105

Sponsor information

Organisation

Counseling Services Unit (Zimbabwe)

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

Counseling Services Unit (Zimbabwe)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	26/10/2011	18/12/2020	Yes	No