

Evaluation of the Threshold Assessment Grid (TAG) as a means of improving access from primary care to secondary mental health services

Submission date 13/08/2004	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 05/10/2004	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 10/11/2022	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Dr Mike Slade

Contact details

Health Services Research Department (Box P029)
David Goldberg building
Institute of Psychiatry
De Crespigny Park
Denmark Hill
London
United Kingdom
SE5 8AF
+44 (0)20 7848 0795
m.slade@iop.kcl.ac.uk

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

SDO 71/2003

Study information

Scientific Title

Evaluation of the Threshold Assessment Grid (TAG) as a means of improving access from primary care to secondary mental health services

Acronym

TAG

Study objectives

Primary hypothesis: Using the TAG will significantly improve the agreement between the GP and the adult mental health team on the appropriateness of the referral

Secondary hypotheses: Receiving a TAG with a referral letter will make it significantly easier for the mental health team to identify

- a. The urgency of the referral
- b. The most appropriate professional to make the initial assessment

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Added as of 06/08/2007: The study was approved by Metropolitan Multi-centre Ethics Committee (04/MRE11/8) with Local REC approval in London and Manchester, and research governance support from the relevant Primary Care Trusts and Mental Health Trusts.

Study design

Randomised controlled trial.

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Not Specified

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Mental health

Interventions

Control group: referrers to CMHTs asked to make referrals using a referral letter or form as per existing practice.

Intervention group: referrers to CMHTs asked to complete a Threshold Assessment Grid (TAG) in addition to a referral letter, and given guidance on its contents.

Amendments to the trial as of 01 June 2005:

1. We will now be paying GP practices £100 to cover administrative costs incurred in providing us with service use data for the 5-10 patients they referred to mental health teams during Jan - June 2005. To facilitate this service use data collection, the name and date of birth of referred patients will be recorded at the mental health team referral meeting.
2. We will now be paying GPs £100 for their time in being interviewed to learn about their

experiences of using TAG

3. We will be interviewing key informants in mental health teams about their experience in receiving TAGs with the referral letter

4. We will be extending the randomised controlled trial (RCT) from 6 to 9 months, so it finishes on 30 September 2005 instead of 30 June 2005.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

CMHT rating of appropriateness of the referral.

Key secondary outcome(s)

CMHT rating of the quality of information to inform decision-making about urgency of the referral and which professional should make the initial assessment. In addition to this, service usage data will be collected to allow cost effectiveness analysis.

Completion date

30/09/2005

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

General Practitioners (GPs) and other referrers to Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs).

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

73

Key exclusion criteria

None

Date of first enrolment

01/01/2005

Date of final enrolment

30/09/2005

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Health Services Research Department (Box P029)

London

United Kingdom

SE5 8AF

Sponsor information

Organisation

NHS Service Delivery and Organisation Programme (SDO) (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/02wnqcb97>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NHS Service Delivery and Organisation R&D Programme (UK) (ref: SDO 71/2003)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

Not provided at time of registration

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	Study website	25/07/2007		Yes	No
Results article		01/06/2008		Yes	No
Study website		11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes