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Exploring nurse-patient relationships on acute mental health wards

Submission date
14/02/2020

Recruitment status
Stopped

Registration date
26/02/2020

Overall study status
Stopped

Last Edited
01/02/2022

Condition category
Mental and Behavioural Disorders

[X] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[ ] Statistical analysis plan
[ ] Results
[ ] Individual participant data
[ ] 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

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Public

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (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

Primary study design
Other

Study design
Single centre mixed methods

Study type(s)
Other

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

Key secondary outcome(s)
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

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

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Sex
All

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
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Springfield Hospital
South West London ad St George's Mental Health NHS Trust
61 Glenburnie Road
London
United Kingdom
SW17 7DJ

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Essex

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

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?
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Protocol file	version v2	19/11/2019	06/03/2020	No	No