Audit of the documentation of admission clerkings to adult psychiatric wards in LPFT

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INTRODUCTION:
The admission clerking of patients to a psychiatric unit is a vital part of patient care. The information obtained and documented is used in multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings, nursing handovers, the Consultant when formulating diagnosis and management plan and for writing the discharge summary for colleagues in the community including GPs. The patient is usually admitted by a junior doctor, either a core trainee in psychiatry (CT), a GPVTS trainee, a foundation year 2 trainee (F2) or a foundation year 1 trainee (F1). A study looking at psychiatric residents consultation notes has shown significant data is omitted in psychiatric consultation notes (1). An audit demonstrated presenting audit findings on documentation at an audit meeting improved that documentation (2). Another audit demonstrated that the introduction of a standardized admission form improved documentation admissions in most areas (3).

RESULTS 1:
Re-audit results showed statistically significant improvements (chi squared p value <0.05) for the following sections: patient details, family history of mental illness, personal history, socio-cultural history, substance use history and risk assessment. Educating the junior doctors of the requirements of a psychiatric admission clerking has led to improvements in most areas, with 9 of the 22 areas achieving between 90-100% of the audit standard compared to 0 areas previously.

RESULTS 2:
After re-audit there are clinically significant omissions in the areas of past medical history, allergies and family history of mental illness. The proforma used within the Trust does not include sections for past medical history, family history or pre-morbid personality. The results suggest that using the Trust proforma with its omissions of important areas results in these areas being omitted more frequently in admission documentation.

CONCLUSION:
1. Audit results were given to Clinical Directors to assist in the redesign of the Trust admissions proforma.
2. The standards required for psychiatric admission documentation will be included in the Trust induction for junior doctors.
3. Presenting audit results to doctors did result in improvements in clinical practice.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:
Audit again once the proforma has been redesigned.

METHOD:
Audit standards were drawn up using the Royal College of Psychiatrists Core Training Curriculum (4). Data was collected from all 4 general adult wards in Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) by a cross-sectional examination of the case notes of inpatients in May 2011. Results were presented to all doctors in the Trust and e-mailed to all junior doctors. 6 weeks later the re-audit was conducted for all admissions since the intervention and the results were compared.

REFERENCES: