



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Can Psychiatric liaison service in Emergency Department reduce Psychiatric admission? A retrospective study in Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital."

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Introduction

Patients with wide spectrum of psychiatric problems are common at emergency department. There is also an increasing awareness of psychiatric illnesses and demand of psychiatric services. A psychiatric consultation liaison team consisting of specialized psychiatric nurses can provide prompt assessment and appropriate disposal at emergency department.

Objectives

(1) to identify patients with serious psychiatric problems for timely management; (2) to provide counseling for patients with psychiatric problems whom immediate admission is not needed

Methodology

Psychiatric consultation liaison service has been started since November 2010. The service is available during 9 am to 9 pm in weekdays. Patients attending emergency department with significant psychiatric problems are referred to an on-site psychiatric consultation liaison nurse for assessment. Psychiatrist consultation is available upon request of liaison nurse. The number of psychiatric admission is compared before and after the launching of service. Also, analysis of the profile of consultations is carried out for a period of 6 months.

Result

Results In the 18 months period from May 2009 to October 2010 before psychiatric consultation liaison service, there were 874 psychiatric admissions. In the 18 months period from December 2010 to May 2012 after the service was available, there were 724 admissions or a 17% reduction. In the 6 months period from November 2011 to April 2012, there were 338 liaison consultations. There were 76 admissions after consultation (22% of consultations). In the same period, there were total 271 psychiatric admissions. 195 or 72% of psychiatric admissions therefore happened outside psychiatric liaison service hours. Conclusions Psychiatric consultation liaison team service can provide prompt assessment and management for patients with psychiatric problems in emergency department. It also reduces unnecessary psychiatric admissions.