



CRIS is a project supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health and Dementia Unit at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.



Introducing CRIS

We have developed a computer system that allows us to carry out research using information from the Trust's clinical records.

We call this system **CRIS**: the **Clinical Record Interactive Search** system.

CRIS is safe and secure. It does not reveal your personal details to Trust researchers.

We believe CRIS can make a real and positive difference to future treatments and care.

How are your personal details protected?

CRIS transforms clinical information so that it is anonymous. Your clinical details can be used in research but your personal details cannot. The computer removes or covers up any information that can identify you. Your name, the name of your carer, your full date of birth, address, postcode and phone numbers are replaced with 'ZZZZZ' like this:

*December 06 ZZZZZ ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ Dear ZZZZZ Re: Anger
Management Group I am writing
to confirm that the next Anger
Management Group will
commence on Monday 14th
January 2013 for 10 weeks.*

CRIS has received ethical approval from an independent (non-Trust) committee, as a safe, secure and confidential information source for research.

Who can access CRIS?

CRIS is available only to researchers who have a contract with the Trust. These researchers might work in collaboration with other organisations. The information in **CRIS** is protected by strict Trust information security. It cannot be accessed or taken outside the Trust in any form.

What sort of things will CRIS help with?

CRIS will help us to look at real life situations in large quantities. This means it's easier to see patterns and trends – e.g. what works for some and doesn't for others.

We may link information about your treatment and care in the Trust with other aspects of your health. This will help to improve physical and mental health as a whole. As an example, information about patients who had both mental health illness and cancer was linked to look at the impact of mental illness on cancer survival rates. We have also created a linkage with local GP records to help us learn how to improve the physical health of patients with severe mental illness. **CRIS** enables us to do this in a format that will not identify you. Full information on all data linkages with **CRIS** is displayed on the following website: <http://brc.slam.nhs.uk/crislinkages>.

We will continue to seek the permission of independent organisations outside the Trust to assess our arrangements. This is to make sure that the security of your information and your confidentiality is always protected.

Here are a few of the things we've been looking at so far:

- Is there a test for those with Alzheimer's disease that can show if drugs would be the best treatment?
- Do some drugs for schizophrenia affect physical health, e.g. diabetes?
- Do people's home living arrangements affect how long they spend as inpatients, receiving care in hospital wards?

How will CRIS affect individual care delivery right now?

We believe **CRIS** can make a real and positive difference to future treatments and care. However, the research made possible by **CRIS** is unlikely to impact directly on care right now.

What can I do if I want to find out more?

We are keen to share information about **CRIS** with service users, carers and staff. We are holding a series of open sessions to discuss **CRIS** with anyone who wants to know more.

Alternatively, if you have any questions, or if you would rather not have your records in **CRIS**, please contact:

CRIS Administrator,
PO 92, Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
London SE5 8AF
or email: cris.administrator@kcl.ac.uk.

