

Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2016

Group Updates

Introductory Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to our introductory meeting last month, it was great to meet you all! At the meeting we introduced the CRIS system and the concept of data linkage in the Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). We also discussed the Terms of Reference for the group and set a date for the next meeting in June.

News

CRIS Blog

Professor Robert Stewart, academic lead for the CRIS system, has written an interesting blog piece for the BRC website about CRIS, 8 years since its initial development. If you would like to read the post it can be found here: <http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/news-events/cris-blog-8-years-on/>.

Research Spotlight

Serious Mental Illness and Pregnancy

Clare Taylor is a Researcher and PhD student at Kings College London; she is part of a team, led by Professor Louise Howard, who are researching the risks and benefits of taking psychotropic drugs during pregnancy.

The team are able to investigate this using mental health data from CRIS linked with maternity records from hospital data. Using anonymised linked data from CRIS and hospital records the team are looking at factors that might predict worsening of serious mental illness in pregnancy and after the birth of the baby, including the effects of changing medication.

One big benefit of using linked data is it allows the study to follow a much larger number of women than most previous research. It will therefore be able to provide much more

evidence than was previously available on the risks and benefits of taking medication for mental disorders during pregnancy.

If you would like to find out more about Clare's work she has written a blog post which is available here:

<http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/news-events/cris-blog-mental-illness-and-pregnancy/>.

Clare also has a publication looking at the health needs of pregnant women with serious mental illness, which you can read here:

[https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/the-characteristics-and-health-needs-of-pregnant-women-with-schizophrenia-compared-with-bipolar-disorder-and-affective-psychooses\(62135069-bc9b-4f74-afaa-aad64de2109c\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/the-characteristics-and-health-needs-of-pregnant-women-with-schizophrenia-compared-with-bipolar-disorder-and-affective-psychooses(62135069-bc9b-4f74-afaa-aad64de2109c).html)

And finally, Clare has a new paper looking at self-harm in pregnant woman with bipolar and psychotic disorder which is available here:

[https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/the-prevalence-and-correlates-of-selfharm-in-pregnant-women-with-psychotic-disorder-and-bipolar-disorder\(c0830815-cd86-4093-9129-ef43890c9b60\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/the-prevalence-and-correlates-of-selfharm-in-pregnant-women-with-psychotic-disorder-and-bipolar-disorder(c0830815-cd86-4093-9129-ef43890c9b60).html)

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 16th June**, from **4.30-6pm** at the BRC Nucleus Meeting Room. We look forward to seeing you then!

Future Newsletters

If there is anything that you would like to see in future newsletters or if you would like more information about something mentioned in a newsletter, you can contact Amelia or Megan via email: amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk / megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk, or phone: 020 3228 8554.