

Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group Newsletter

Issue 4, October 2016

Group Updates

September Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came along to our meeting in September. At the meeting the group gave their thoughts and feedback on two data linkage projects; Dr Johnny Downs presented his project looking to link mental health data with information on offending from the Ministry of Justice. We also heard from Dr Katherine Sleeman, who spoke about her project looking at the factors which can influence why people with dementia make transitions from community care to hospital, using linked mental health and physical health data.

News

Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Funding

The Maudsley BRC has received £66m in funding over the next 5 years from the Department for Health; this funding will allow the Maudsley BRC to continue to conduct research which will result in real changes for patients with mental illness. You can read the full announcement on the BRC website here: <http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/news-events/maudsley-brc-receives-66m-new-investment-from-government/>.

We Need Your Help!

As you are aware the group is currently going through a trial period of one year, at the end of which we will conduct some evaluation and look to seek further funding to support the group in the future. As a start to our evaluation process we wanted to get some feedback from you all regarding the format of the meetings. We would really appreciate if you could give us some feedback on the following questions:

1. Do you think the presenters described their data linkage projects clearly? If not, what do you think would have helped?
2. Do you feel satisfied with the structure of the meeting i.e. short presentation followed by a discussion? If not, what do you think could be made better?
3. Do you feel able to share your ideas or suggestions that you have during group discussions? If not, what would help you feel more able to share your thoughts?
4. Any other comments?

Research Spotlight

Electronic Health Records to Predict Hospitalised Suicide Attempts

Dr Rina Dutta is a Consultant Psychiatrist who is funded through a Clinician Scientist Fellowship from the Health Foundation (<http://www.health.org.uk/programmes/clinician-scientist-fellowships/projects/rina-dutta-clinician-scientist-fellow>) in partnership with the Academy of Medical Sciences (<http://www.acmedsci-updates.org.uk/influencing-professional-practice-psychiatry-beyond/>) to study how information contained within health records could be used to improve the prediction of serious suicide attempts. About half of people who commit suicide have had a previous suicide attempt, but what we know about why people take their own lives lags behind our understanding of other life-threatening problems. Assessing risk of suicide is an important part of the work that mental health teams do, but predicting who is most at risk and when is the riskiest time is a huge challenge even in high-risk mental health service users.

Rina is using the SLaM CRIS system linked with hospital admissions data and information from death certificates to determine whether warning signs for suicide attempts can be picked up early using electronic health records. This research is important as it will be used to help healthcare professionals personalise care for people most at risk of suicide. The long term goal of the project is for healthcare professionals using the electronic medical records in their work to be directly alerted to high risk times for their patients. Rina is also aiming to develop prevention strategies and self-management tools by feeding back patterns which indicate risk to individual patients.

Rina will be presenting her project at the next meeting in December, however, if you would like to hear more in the meantime you can watch a video of Rina talking about her project on our website at the following link: <http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/core-facilities/clinical-record-interactive-search-cris/what-is-cris/>.

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 1st December**, from **4.30-6pm**, location to be confirmed. 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.