

Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group Newsletter

Issue 14, April 2018

News

New CRIS Blog

There is a new blog on our website written by Professor Robert Stewart about some recently published research using CRIS linked with hospital data to look at common reasons for general hospital admissions in people with serious mental illness. You can check it out here:

<https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/posts/2018/march/cris-blog-common-reasons-for-general-hospital-admissions-in-people-with-serious-mental-illnesses/>

Project Update: Early Life Data Cross-Linkage in Research - eLIXIR

In June last year, Dr Clare Taylor presented the eLIXIR project to us, this project aims to bring together information on women and their children from multiple sources to enable research across the life course - from pregnancy and birth onwards. The first stage of the project aims to link data from maternity and neonatal care records with information on mental health from CRIS. We are pleased to update you that this first stage of the project has now received research ethics approval from the Oxford C Research Ethics Committee as well as provision approval from the Health Research Authority's Confidentiality Advisory Group (HRA CAG). The team will now focus on answering the HRA CAG's queries in order to obtain full approval. We will keep you updated on any further progress with this project.

Research Spotlight

In each newsletter we will highlight recent research that has been conducted using linked data, if you would like to know more about any particular piece of work please let us know.

Polypharmacy in people with dementia

Polypharmacy refers to the use of a large number of medications by one person and is common in people with dementia. The majority of people with dementia suffer from other additional long-term conditions (such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, depression or pain) and need to take several medications. Despite the high levels of polypharmacy in people with dementia relatively little is known about the potential health outcomes for this group and research into

medications for long-term conditions has almost exclusively been done in people without dementia. Therefore, Dr Christoph Mueller and his group chose to focus on this in their recently published journal article - Polypharmacy in people with dementia: Associations with adverse health outcomes.

Using CRIS linked to hospital and mortality data the team were able to investigate whether or not polypharmacy use in people with dementia was associated with important health outcomes – A&E attendance, hospital admissions and mortality.

The team looked at over 4000 people who had been diagnosed with dementia within SLAM. They found that people with dementia prescribed four or more different medications had an increased risk of hospitalisation, A&E attendance and mortality in the two years following the diagnosis of dementia when compared to those who were prescribed three medications or less.

This increased risk may be caused by interactions between different medications or yet unknown effects of some medications in dementia, however, further in-depth research would be required to determine exactly the cause of this increased risk. Further research should also aim to examine whether reviewing medication and reducing inappropriate prescribing is effective in preventing these adverse outcomes in people with dementia.

If you would like to read the article in full, please let us know and we can forward you a copy.

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14 June**, from **4-6pm**, in the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience. 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.