Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group

Newsletter

Issue 15, May 2018

News

Refresh of Data Linkage with Hospital Episode Statistics

Late last year we received approval from NHS Digital to refresh our data linkage between CRIS and Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). HES data include all accident and emergency, hospital admissions, and outpatient visits which occur in all hospitals throughout England. This includes important clinical information such as diagnoses, and information on operations as well as demographic information such as age at admission and gender, and administrative data such as methods of admission and discharge.

We have now received refreshed HES data up to March 2017 and this is being made available to CRIS researchers who are conducting projects investigating risk factors for physical illness and looking at how pre-existing physical health problem may impact the outcomes of mental health treatments. You can find out more about this linkage and some of the projects using this data via our website: https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/facilities/clinical-record-interactive-search-cris/.

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.

Predictors of Falls and Fractures Leading to Hospitalisation in People with Dementia.

One project which utilised the existing CRIS linkage with Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data focused on individuals with dementia who were hospitalised for falls. Falls are common in older age and are associated with a number of negative outcomes including reduced quality of life and an increased risk of admission to long-term care. It is therefore important to understand what causes falls and fractures in older adults in order to help try and prevent them.

There are a number of previous studies which focus on the factors that can predict falls and fractures, however, very few of them focus specifically on individuals with dementia and those that do have very small sample sizes which can make it difficult to generalise any findings to the

wider population. Therefore the aim of this work was to investigate what factors can predict falls and fractures which lead to hospitalisation in a large group of individuals with dementia.

The CRIS system was used to identify 8,036 people with a diagnosis of dementia who had been seen by the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust between January 2007 and March 2013. The team were then able to use the linked HES data to identify who within that group had been hospitalised for a fall and/or fracture during that time period. A range of demographic and clinical factors were also identified using CRIS to see which of these was predictive of being admitted to hospital for a fall and/ or fracture.

The team found that 2,500 patients (or 33%) were hospitalised at least once for a fall or fracture during the follow-up period. Older age, female gender, socioeconomic deprivation, single marital status, certain types of dementia, physical health problems, past falls or fractures, and problems with living conditions were all found to be risk factors for falls and fractures. However, the severity of dementia or any medications were not found to be a risk factor for either falls or fractures.

The results of this study suggest that physical health, demographic, social and environmental factors have a stronger influence on the risk of falls and fractures then the severity of dementia or the medication prescribed for dementia. Although, the authors do acknowledge that further investigation is required to understand exactly why these factors are associated with an increased risk of falls and fractures.

If you would like to read this paper in full it can be accessed here:

https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/predictors-of-falls-and-fractures-leading-to-hospitalization-in-people-with-dementia(fdcfdaef-62ae-4d50-9235-7a96adbf9099).html

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th June**, from **4-6pm**, at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and 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.