



## Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group

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### Newsletter

**Issue 18 October 2018**

### **News**

#### **CRIS 10-Year Anniversary Celebration**

We are marking the 10th birthday of the Clinical Record Interactive Search (CRIS) system, with a series of talks and presentations by health informaticians, researchers, clinicians and collaborators, followed by a drinks reception. The event is being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, from 12.45 to 6.30pm at the ORTUS Conferencing and Events Venue, 83-96 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8SN. If you would like to attend please RSVP by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to [anna.kolliakou@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:anna.kolliakou@kcl.ac.uk). We hope to see you all there!

#### **CRIS Blog**

Alastair Macdonald, Emeritus professor of Clinical Outcomes Research, and Lucy Stephenson, Clinical Research Associate, have written a blog describing the work that they have done using CRIS to explore patient outcomes for women admitted to psychiatric Mother and Baby Inpatient Units within The South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. You can read it [here](#).

### **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.

#### **Accuracy of General Hospital Dementia Diagnoses in England**

Individuals with dementia are more frequently admitted to general hospitals than those without dementia. This is due to a number of reasons including the increased presence of co-occurring physical and mental health conditions, poorer nutritional status, and difficulties in managing medication and seeking timely medical care. The recognition of dementia in hospital patients is important as medical records should accurately reflect a patients' clinical condition so that tailored care and discharge plans can be provided. Therefore a team at the Maudsley BRC sought to investigate the accuracy of recorded diagnoses of dementia in general hospital records using information from CRIS linked to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data.

HES data includes details of all admissions, A and E attendances and outpatient appointments at NHS hospitals in England. By linking information on individuals with and without dementia from CRIS with HES data the team were able to compare the diagnoses found in the general hospital admissions.

They found that of 8,246 people with a diagnosis of dementia in CRIS who had been admitted to hospital, 78% had a dementia diagnosis in their HES record. People with dementia were more likely to have their condition detected and recorded if they were: older, had lower Mini Mental State Exam (MMSE) score (indicating more severe dementia), or if they had previously recorded agitated behaviour or problems with daily activities. Accurate recording of the presence of dementia in general hospital records was however lower in ethnic minority groups, younger, single people, and those with worse physical illness. The team were able to examine for trends over time, using 9 years of CRIS data. They found that recording of diagnosis has improved over time, with dementia recorded during 49% of hospital admissions in 2008, which increased to 62% during admissions in 2016.

The team concluded that dementia diagnosis recording in general hospitals is increasing providing some indication that UK efforts to increase dementia diagnosis rates in general hospitals have had success. However, there are still lower recording rates in some groups, likely due to communication difficulties, lack of an informant, or the presence of other causes of cognitive decline. It is therefore important that clinicians are aware of this when treating individuals who may fall into these groups. Policymakers should also consider providing training for hospital clinicians in dementia detection in these patient groups.

If you would like to read the paper in full it is available [here](#).

## Upcoming

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December**, from **4-6pm**, 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](mailto:amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk) / [megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk), or phone: 020 3228 8554.