



# Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group

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## Newsletter

Issue 22 April 2019

### News

#### New CRIS Blog

Professor Robert Stewart, CRIS Academic Lead, has written a blog describing the Pathfinder awards - a grant that has been received by Kings College London to support four projects:

1. Using computer algorithms developed at the Maudsley BRC to help improve other health records databases – including work that has been carried out to extract information on mental health symptoms and treatments from mental health text fields - known as Natural Language Processing.
2. Using our experience in data linkages (e.g. between CRIS and education records) to help set these up at multiple sites.
3. Setting up a way of routinely collecting in-depth information on people who experience psychosis for the first time in order to improve monitoring of early treatments and response to these.
4. Investigating whether it would be possible to set up a large prospective study of mental health in adolescents using an online platform.

You can read the full blog post [here](#) and there is also the opportunity to take part in an online survey to give your views on the sharing of health information.

### 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.

#### Relapse in the First Three Months Postpartum in Women with a History of Serious Mental Illness

Relapse of serious mental illness (SMI) in the postpartum period (the period immediately after giving birth) is potentially devastating for both mother and baby. The onset of psychoses immediately following childbirth are among the most severe disorders seen in psychiatry and may

be associated with adverse consequences for the woman and her family. Therefore, a group of researchers at the Maudsley BRC aimed to use the CRIS system linked to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data to investigate risk factors for relapse of SMI in the postpartum period as well as examine whether medication exposure in the third trimester and postpartum period prevented relapse.

The study group included women with a history of SMI who delivered babies from 2007 to 2011. CRIS data was used to identify women with SMI and linked HES data was used to identify deliveries. 452 pregnancies (in 396 women) which met the criteria were included in the study.

Relapse was defined as admission to acute care in the first 3 months postpartum. Of the 452 pregnancies, 128 (28.3%) were associated with relapse. The team found that a relapse in pregnancy was a strong predictor of relapse in the postpartum period. Women who were exposed to regular medication in the third trimester of pregnancy and the postpartum period were compared with women who were not exposed. However, there was no association found between medication exposure in pregnancy and relapse in the postpartum period.

The study confirms a high risk of relapse in the early postpartum period in women with SMI. The team concluded that women with severe illnesses should be warned pre-conception about the risk of relapse, particularly if they have recently relapsed. With regards to medication during pregnancy, further research is needed on the risks and benefits of the different types of medication used for SMI in the perinatal period.

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

## Upcoming

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**, from **4-6pm**, in Seminar Room 6 in the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience main building. 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.