

# THE MONTHLY LINKAGE

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## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT – DANIEL LEIGHTLEY

Electronic healthcare records (EHRs) are a rich source of information with a range of uses in secondary research. In the United Kingdom, there is no pan-national or nationally accepted marker indicating veteran status across all healthcare services. This presents significant obstacles to determining the healthcare needs of veterans using EHRs. To address this issue, we developed the Military Service Identification Tool (MSIT), using an iterative two-staged approach. In the first stage, a Structured Query Language approach was developed to identify veterans using a keyword rule-based approach.

To read the full research paper click here:

[Healthcare | Free Full-Text | Identifying Military Service Status in Electronic Healthcare Records from Psychiatric](#)

This informed the second stage, which was the development of the MSIT using machine learning, which, when tested, obtained an accuracy of 0.97, a positive predictive value of 0.90, a sensitivity of 0.91, and a negative predictive value of 0.98. To further validate the performance of the MSIT, the present study sought to verify the accuracy of the EHRs that trained the MSIT models. To achieve this, we surveyed 902 patients of a local specialist mental healthcare service, with 146 (16.2%) being asked if they had or had not served in the Armed Forces. In total 112 (76.7%) reported that they had not served, and 34 (23.3%) reported that they had served in the Armed Forces (accuracy: 0.84, sensitivity: 0.82, specificity: 0.91). The MSIT has the potential to be used for identifying veterans in the UK from free-text clinical documents and future use should be explored.

## GOING HYBRID

In 2023 we are reintroducing hybrid meetings! At the next meeting feel free to join us in the office at the below address:

**Room M.317, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, IoPPN  
Main Building, 16 De Crespigny  
Park, London, SE5 8AF**

## Looking Ahead

At the BRC we continue to carry out translational research in mental health and neurology and in light of this, we have just published our research themes from 2022-2027. This is elaborated on our website and we hope to continue to deliver useful and effective research to drive change and solutions in our field.

For more information see the following link:

[Research \(nhr.ac.uk\)](#)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The agenda for this meeting will be sent closer to the date.

(If you wish to not be included in future meetings or to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email to [lara.brooks-simpson@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:lara.brooks-simpson@slam.nhs.uk))