Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number:	EPUT.FOI.19.1358
Date Received:	10 December 2019

Information Requested:

We are a group of clinicians & researchers carrying out a national evaluation of liaison psychiatry service provision in NHS hospitals across England. As part of this project, we are submitting FOI requests to all NHS Mental Health Trusts to ask about local policy and practice. We kindly request the following information as per the FOI Act 2000.

Our enquiries relate to the provision of liaison psychiatry services in adult general hospitals, including patients in inpatient wards or A&E departments. This research is conducted as part of an Academic Foundation Programme research post. No specific grant was awarded for this project. All findings will be de-identified from Hospitals or Trusts before publication.

1. At which general hospital(s) does your Trust provide liaison psychiatry services?
   Southend Hospital
   Basildon Hospital
   Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford
   Princess Alexander Hospital, Harlow
   Colchester Hospital

For each of the above hospitals, please answer the questions below:

2. Is there a written policy about prioritising patients who have been referred to liaison psychiatry, or determining which referrals to accept? (If No, please move to Question 6).
   No written policy regarding prioritising of patients but key performance indicators dictate that A&E is a priority and response times to all referrals. This is monitored by performance team and detailed in the operational procedure of the service.

3. If so, is this policy made available to all (psychiatry and non-psychiatry) clinicians working within the general hospital? If so, please specify where (e.g. Trust intranet)?
   The referral form has guidance on which type of referral to make – emergency (1hr response), urgent (4hr), routine (24hr). A referral form is only used by the wards. Phone or face to face is carried out in A&E.

   Please attach the policy document if possible. We aim to extract only certain information from the policy document, so if the complete policy document cannot be sent, please send the following information:

   Please see attached.

4. Details on which locations this policy covers and which patients (i.e. inpatient ward/A&E/referrals) the policy covers.
   Procedures cover A& E and wards with in the general hospital

5. Details on any guidelines to prioritise or determine which referrals to accept. Specifically:
   i. Patients should be medically fit for discharge prior to review
   ii. Patients should be medically fit for assessment prior to review
   iii. No restriction applied; all patients are reviewed
   iv. Any other methods used to prioritise patient referrals (please specify)
   This is assessed on an individual basis and can be discussed with the referrer as needed. Patients presenting to A&E with symptoms such as low mood, are not required to be signed off as MFD, only cleared by the triage nurse.

6. Whether the policy states which professional group (e.g. psychiatrist, psychologist, nurse) should review the referral and/or assess the patient? If so, please specify.
   Any clinician can refer a patient.

7. When was the policy last reviewed or updated?
   2018

8. When (if at all) was local practice last audited against this policy and what were the findings?
   Audited this year by the CCG using PLAN as a guide lines

9. At your Trust, how do doctors refer patients to liaison psychiatry for review (e.g. by telephone, by electronic referral system, by email, by fax)?
   Referrals arrive as emails. Anyone can phone the team to discuss a patient.

Many thanks for your time. Please do not hesitate to get in touch by email if you have any questions or clarifications. We look forward to your reply.

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link
https://eput.nhs.uk