

Our Ref: FOI - 1663 - Liaison Psychiatry Referral Policy

Request & Trust Response

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.

| Question | Trust Response |
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| 1. At which general hospital(s) does your Trust provide liaison psychiatry services? | University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust George Elliot NHS Trust |
| 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). | We have an operational policy which provides referral criteria. |
| 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)? | Yes (Team Meetings/Training etc) |
| 4. 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: a. Details on which locations this policy covers and which patients (i.e. inpatient ward/A&E/referrals) the policy covers. | See attached Covers all Hospitals Jagtar Singh OBE – Chair Simon Gilby – Chief Executive |

Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust
Wayside House, Wilsons Lane, Coventry, CV6 6NY
Tel: 024 7636 2100 Fax: 024 7636 8949
www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk



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| <p>b. Details on any guidelines to prioritise or determine which referrals to accept. Specifically:</p> <p>i. Patients should be medically fit for discharge prior to review</p> <p>ii. Patients should be medically fit for assessment prior to review</p> <p>iii. No restriction applied; all patients are reviewed</p> <p>iv. Any other methods used to prioritise patient referrals (please specify)</p> <p>c. 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.</p> <p>d. When was the policy last reviewed or updated?</p> | <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Any member of clinical team can refer</p> <p>Currently under review</p> |
| <p>5. When (if at all) was local practice last audited against this policy and what were the findings?</p> | <p>N/K</p> |
| <p>6. 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)?</p> | <p>Telephone, email, fax.</p> |

Jagtar Singh OBE – Chair
Simon Gilby – Chief Executive

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