

A59 Welcome to the FORUM: A new patient and clinician reported outcome measure for forensic mental health services

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Forensic mental health services provide care to people with severe mental illness who also pose a risk to others, in secure psychiatric hospitals and specialised community teams. Measuring outcomes of forensic mental health services is important to safeguard patients and the public, monitor progress and develop treatment plans. Little is known about which outcomes are most important and existing measures have had limited patient input into their design, demonstrate variable psychometric properties, and are often not well liked by clinicians. A project to develop a new outcome measure was co-designed with patients, carers and the public. A dedicated patient and public advisory group was established to guide the work throughout its lifecycle and contributed to project methodology, data interpretation and dissemination of results. Patients, carers and professionals from forensic mental health services were interviewed and took part in focus groups to identify which outcomes were important to them. Forty-two outcomes were identified in the six domains of ‘about me, my quality of life, my health, my safety and risk, my life skills and my pathway’. These outcomes were then prioritised by asking patients, carers and professionals to rate their importance through a Delphi process. Eight of the top fifteen outcomes were shared between patients/carers and professionals. A new instrument for measuring outcomes in forensic mental health services was then developed, called the FORensic oUtcome Measure (FORUM), with complementary patient (FORUM-P) and clinician (FORUM-C) reported questionnaires. Patients and their clinical teams at a regional forensic psychiatric service then completed the FORUM. Patients and clinicians also provided feedback on the questionnaires. Sixty-two patients participated with a mean age of 41.0 years (standard deviation 11.3) and 35 clinicians completed the FORUM-C. Cronbach’s alpha for the

FORUM-P was 0.87 (95% confidence interval (CI) 0.80–0.93) and the FORUM-C was 0.93 (95% CI 0.91–0.96). The weighted kappa for test–retest reliability for the FORUM-P was 0.44 (95% CI 0.24–0.63) and for the FORUM-C was 0.78 (95% CI 0.73–0.85). For interrater reliability of the FORUM-C the Spearman correlation coefficient was 0.47 (95% CI 0.18–0.69). The FORUM-P received an average rating of 4.0 out of 5 for comprehensiveness, 4.6 for ease of use and 3.9 for relevance, while the FORUM-C received 4.1 for comprehensiveness, 4.5 for ease of use and 4.3 for relevance. These results indicate that the FORUM is a promising new instrument to measure outcomes in forensic mental health services.

Data availability Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

Declaration

Ethics statement The conference was sponsored by WViHC and Oxford.

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