





Poster 47

A Survey of Delirium Screening Practice in Specialist Palliative Care Units in the UK

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Introduction

There are a large number of assessment tools available, to screen for delirium in inpatient settings. However, there is currently no strong evidence to offer guidance on which tool to use in specialist palliative care units (SPCUs), e.g. hospices.

Aim:
To investigate if and how SPCUs in the UK screen for delirium, to collect information on any delirium training offered at the SPCUs, and gather opinions on the barriers and facilitators to delirium screening.

Method

Setting: Specialist palliative care adult inpatient units.
Participants: SPCU clinical staff (doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, hospice managers).
Design: An 18-item survey was created using Qualtrics.
Identification, invitation and consent: Hospice UK distributed the survey in two ways:
1. Invited the clinical leads at registered SPCUs to distribute the survey URL to staff at their SPCU.
2. Sent the survey URL to the Hospice UK research mailing list.

Results

Screening for delirium

- 50% of SPCU staff reported using their clinical judgement to screen for delirium
- 16% reported they do not screen for delirium

Diagnosing delirium

- 59% reported using their clinical judgement to confirm a diagnosis of delirium
- 6% reported they do not undertake any further assessment

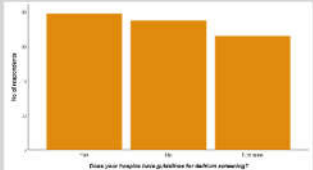
Results - demographics

- 220 responses (90% female)
- Representation from all healthcare regions in England (88.2%), some representation from Scotland (3.2%), Wales (6.4%), and Northern Ireland (2.3%)
- 47% nurses, 31% doctors, 10% HCAs, 5% hospice managers, 7% other

Results - training & guidelines

- 62% said they had received delirium training in their current or previous role
- 20% said their SPCU has a training programme for delirium

Q: Does your hospice have guidelines for delirium screening?




Results - barriers and facilitators to screening

Main barriers to screening

- too many other conditions to screen for
- complexity of patient's existing conditions/patient status
- lack of guidance

Main facilitators to screening

- suitable screening tool(s)
- education & training on delirium
- hospice guidelines



Conclusions

- Majority of SPCU staff use 'clinical judgement' to screen for and diagnose delirium
- There is a lack of consensus for which screening tool to use to identify delirium in SPCUs
- Training on delirium, hospice guidelines and a suitable screening tool may improve delirium screening in SPCUs

Acknowledgments

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