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All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme

Mental Health Workstream Update
September 2022

As part of the All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme the mental health workstream is engaging with operational teams across NHS Wales to co-produce a suite of national tools, which will assist health boards in informing the deployment of nursing staff and aid workforce planning with mental health inpatient areas.

In Wales the mental health inpatient service consists over 105 wards, 7 sub specialities and further specialities within speciality of practice. Due to this level of complexity, the workstream group has agreed that the scope of the mental health inpatient workstream should be refocused initially developing a suite of tools for wards that fall under the category of "Admission and Treatment" wards.

Progress to date

Welsh Levels of Care (WLoC)

The draft Welsh Levels of Care tool is a national tool that has been developed by mental health nursing staff to enable mental health nurses to measure a patient's level of acuity and dependency. Mental health nurses have participated in a series of workshops to co-produce a range of descriptors that can be used to allocate a level of care to patients consistently across the four speciality areas (adult, older adult, organic and mixed wards).

Draft two of the Welsh Levels of Care tool has been piloted across 14 mental health wards in Wales and a further pilot is planned to take place in two health boards during September. Based on a review of the findings of the pilots, draft three of the Welsh Level of Care tool is due to be implemented for continuous capture in early 2023.

Professional Judgement

During June 2022, the mental health workstream developed and concept tested the use of a professional judgement app. Teams reported many benefits of utilising an app however issues with informatics, broadband capacity and user requirements being identified meant that the applicability of the app requires further development. Due to the timeframe associated with developing the app, the workstream group are progressing the "nurse workforce planning tool" workbook. The workbook will comprise of WLoC, QI's and Professional judgement elements. The workstream are developing a plan to pilot test the workbook nationally during December 2022.

Quality Indicators

The quality indicator subgroup has identified quality indicators specific to admission and treatment wards in mental health services. These quality indicators have developed organically from the previous five years of professional judgement data, the evidence base supporting the interim principles and the Delphi study. The quality indicators are:

- Patient Falls
- Patient Pressure Ulcers
- Patients receiving an hour of one-on-one time per day
- Nursing provision of two hour of social activities per day
- Admission and transfer screening must be completed within two hours of the patient's arrival
- Medication Errors
- Complaints linked to nurse staffing levels

The above quality indicators will form part of the "nurse workforce planning tool" tool.

Next steps

- Conduct pilot testing draft two of the Welsh Levels of Care tool
- Produce draft three of the Welsh Levels of Care tool
- Produce and pilot test the "nurse workforce planning tool" workbook
- Feedback findings of the pilot of the "nurse workforce planning" to health boards
- Produce 'how to' guides and training materials to support Health boards in implementing the "nurse workforce planning" tool

To access previous newsletters and find out more about the All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme and work undertaken by the workstream **please access the website.**