

PARTICIPATION OF INPATIENTS IN MTM'S: AN EXPLORATIVE STUDY OF MENTAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS' PERCEPTION

Background

There is a global tendency in mental healthcare towards a more active involvement of patients in their care process. As a result, patients participate more often in multidisciplinary team meetings (MTMs). Knowledge about the perception of mental healthcare workers on patient participation in MTM's is limited.

Aim(s)

The aim of this study was to explore the perception of mental healthcare workers about participation of inpatients in MTMs and to determine which demographic and contextual factors are associated with this perception.

Methods

A cross-sectional multicenter study in 17 psychiatric hospital with 701 mental healthcare workers was performed between 29 April and 19 May 2019. For measuring the perception of the mental healthcare workers, the Patient Participation during Multidisciplinary Team Meetings Questionnaire (PaPaT-Q) was used.

Results

93% of the mental healthcare workers indicate that they are willing to allow patients to participate in a MTM. Most mental healthcare workers prefer an active role for the patient when participating in a MTM (93%) and a collaborative role for the patient when making decisions in a MTM (75%). Level of education, discipline, experience with patient participation in MTMs, working in a team where patient participation is applied, and recent training on patient participation, are associated with the mental healthcare worker's perception on patient participation in MTMs.

Discussion

Mental healthcare workers report a great willingness to involve inpatients in MTMs. However, social workers, nurses, and pedagogues feel less competent and are less positive about the effects of patient participation in MTMs. Mental healthcare workers with recent training in patient participation and experience in patient participation in MTMs feel more competent and believe more often that the patient should fulfill a more autonomous role when participating in a MTM.

Implications and future perspectives

The findings of this study might function as eye-opener for mental healthcare workers and can be used to support further development and implementation of quality improvement programs. The insights of this study can be complemented with qualitative research data of stakeholders' experiences of patient participation in MTMs. Future research must focus on the meaning psychiatric nurses, pedagogues, and social workers give to participation of inpatients in MTMs. In particular, the focus should be on explaining why these three discipline groups are less supportive in involving inpatients in MTMs and are less convinced about the effects of patient participation in MTMs. Furthermore, research in this area should focus on the effects of patient participation in MTMs. In this regard, there should be enhanced attention to the mental healthcare workers who are working in a team where patient participation is applied, as they believe in better health outcomes. As this questionnaire exclusively focuses on patient participation in MTMs in inpatient psychiatric settings, future research must focus on the mental healthcare workers' perception on patient participation in MTMs in community-based mental health care systems. Finally, to fully understand the phenomenon of participation of inpatients in MTMs, it also essential to explore the patient's perception about patient participation in MTMs.

References

The references below are not mentioned in the abstract, but are a reference for the research topic:

1. Bangsbo et al, 14:1-11, 2014.

2. Lindberg et al, 2013.
3. Van Dongen et al, 20:724-733, 2016.
4. Van Dongen et al, 10:429-438, 2017.
5. Wittenberg-Lyles et al, 28(2):110-118, 2013.