



The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal
7-9 Bream's Buildings
London
EC4A 1DT

Tel +44 (0)207 404 1999
Fax +44 (0)207 067 1267
www.rcem.ac.uk



PRESS STATEMENT 29 May 2015

Improved risk assessment needed for mental health patients in A&E

A new [report](#) published today shows that Emergency Departments are providing good facilities for mental health patients, but improvements are needed in risk assessment.

The [Royal College of Emergency Medicine](#) (RCEM) is very pleased to coordinate this audit of Mental Health outcomes in UK Emergency Departments. A total of 7,913 patients from 183 Emergency Departments were audited. The report is endorsed by the [Royal College of Psychiatrists](#).

RCEM President Dr Clifford Mann said "Anyone who has been around for as long as I have will be aware that for all sorts of reasons, patients with mental health issues have not always received the standard of care that we would like to see in our Emergency Departments."

"Some aspects of care are difficult to measure and I salute the work involved in putting this important audit together."

This audit builds on previous work by the College in this area and demonstrates the good progress made in establishing standards for the appropriate physical spaces for reviewing patients.

Dr Anne Hicks, RCEM Lead for Mental Health added "At the same time it is evident that a number of challenges remain in ensuring timely review of these patients."

72% of patients had a risk assessment performed while in the Emergency Department. Aside from the patient care aspect, while this figure may be partially a result of inadequate recording, the legal/risk issues that this raises will should prompt Emergency Departments to review their performance in this area.

RCEM Chair of Quality in Emergency Care Committee Dr Adrian Boyle commented "As a College we are, and will continue to work with other agencies to ensure we best meet the needs of this group of vulnerable patients."

RCEM Chair of Standards & Audit Subcommittee Dr Jay Banerjee said "I am keen that they continue to focus on patients. There is a clear link between audit performance and patient outcomes – a welcome change from many of the process measures we are obliged to undertake."

College audits are widely respected as a benchmark of quality care. The inspectorate bodies of each of the UK nations pay particular regard to both participation and performance in these audits.

Excellence in Emergency Care

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 2008 VAT Reg. No: 173205823
Registered Charity number 1122689 Scottish Charity number SC044373

-ENDS-

Further information

The full report can be downloaded from: www.rcem.ac.uk/Shop-Floor/Clinical%20Audit/Current%20Audits

Contact

For further information, or to speak with a spokesperson for The Royal College of Emergency Medicine, please contact Sam McIntyre at Sam.McIntyre@rcem.ac.uk or on 0207 067 1269.

About the Royal College of Emergency Medicine

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine is the single authoritative body for Emergency Medicine in the UK. Emergency Medicine is the medical specialty which provides doctors and consultants to A&E departments in the NHS in the UK and other healthcare systems across the world.

The Royal College works to ensure high quality care by setting and monitoring standards of care, and providing expert guidance and advice on policy to relevant bodies on matters relating to Emergency Medicine.

The Royal College has over 5,000 fellows and members, who are doctors and consultants in emergency departments working in the health services in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and across the world.