Abstract
On
An Exploration of Discharge Summaries of Psychiatric Patients
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The discharge summary is an important document of communication between the hospital and community team. In 2013, HIQA (Health Information and Quality Authority) developed the "National standard for patient discharge summary information" which highlighted the standard for general discharge summaries. However, there is evidence that a gap of communication between the hospital and primary care team still exists in specialities like psychiatric care. The aim of this study is to develop the minimum dataset for psychiatric discharge summaries. Poor information content of psychiatric discharge summaries and the requirements of the primary healthcare team led the researcher to conduct this study to identify the contents need of GPs.

This study was conducted in a Dublin hospital and with a survey of Dublin based GPs (General Practitioners). A mixed design was used to develop the minimum data set for psychiatric discharge summaries. One hundred random reviewing charts were selected from the total discharge summaries of the Mater psychiatric ward for 2015. Then a survey was done of 50 GPs selected from the GP list on the HSE (Health and Safety Authority) website. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire of these GPs. The researcher only received 12 completed questionnaires. Data set definitions were identified from HIQA guidelines and literature.

The analysis of discharge summaries identified a significant gap of communication between the hospital and primary care team. Important contents were missing from the discharge summary such as the patient's address, nationality, next of kin, GP details, admission, and source of admission, address the patient is discharged to, clinical information such as mental state examination (MSE) at discharge, past psychiatric history, social history and risk factor. A survey of GPs suggested that there is a gap between GPs' expectations and current discharge summary contents. GPs expect full details of discharge summaries matching the *National Standard on Information of Discharge Summary* (HIQA 2013).

This researcher suggests improvement of the minimum data set for psychiatric discharge summaries. The researcher also suggests conducting the same study on larger sample size to increase generalisation.