

R-009 The relationship between people with borderline personality disorder and general practitioners: Analysis of Northern Ireland patient Health and Social Care data - UU Magee

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a highly prevalent condition, characterised by impulsivity, unstable emotions and difficulties forming interpersonal relationships. Such patients are at high risk of poor social, physical and mental health outcomes including high rates of completed suicide and suicide attempts (including deliberate self-harm). They are also more likely to be in contact with the criminal justice system. Additionally, people with BPD tend to be high users of health care services, including primary, secondary and emergency services and may be prescribed medications inappropriately. Healthcare professionals commonly regard this patient group as being difficult to manage, often leading to poor engagement and/or removal from GP registers. The high levels of challenging behaviour and utilisation of health care services among this patient group pose considerable personal, social and financial burdens. The proposed study is an observational study in which we will explore the relationship between people with BPD, their contact with primary care services and secondary care. The study will provide information on the prescribing patterns of GPs for this patient group, the incidence of deduction from GP practice, care pathways, suicide attempts, use of emergency services and hospital admissions (including under a section of the MHA). The study will provide information on factors associated with poor social and health outcomes for such patients and indicate how any service gaps may be addressed. The findings will inform policy and practice and will be of significant benefit to BPD patients, mental health services and service commissioners.