

Integrated Mental Health Program Quality Projects 2009

Appropriateness – Interventions are selected based on the likelihood of producing the desired outcome for patients. Using the evidence to do the right thing to the right patient, at the right time, and avoiding under and over utilisation.

Quality Project: IMHP Hospital Suicide Risk Management

Background

The IMHP Hospital Suicide Risk Management Project has been proposed following an adverse incident involving an attempted suicide by a patient on 3 East early this year. One of the issues raised in the analysis of the incident was that nursing staff felt they didn't have enough psychiatric information to safely manage the patient.

The IMHP Consultation & Liaison (CL) team maintain a mental health (MH) record separate from the main medical UR. Suicide risk assessments have been routinely completed only where self-harm risk is identified as a referral issue. Guidelines for the management of self-harm or violence, and observation level required have been inconsistently recorded in the medical file.

Risk management principles suggest a need to screen more systematically for risk of self-harm and violence, and to routinely provide recommendations for the management of risk and levels of observation required that are accessible to all ward medical and nursing staff.

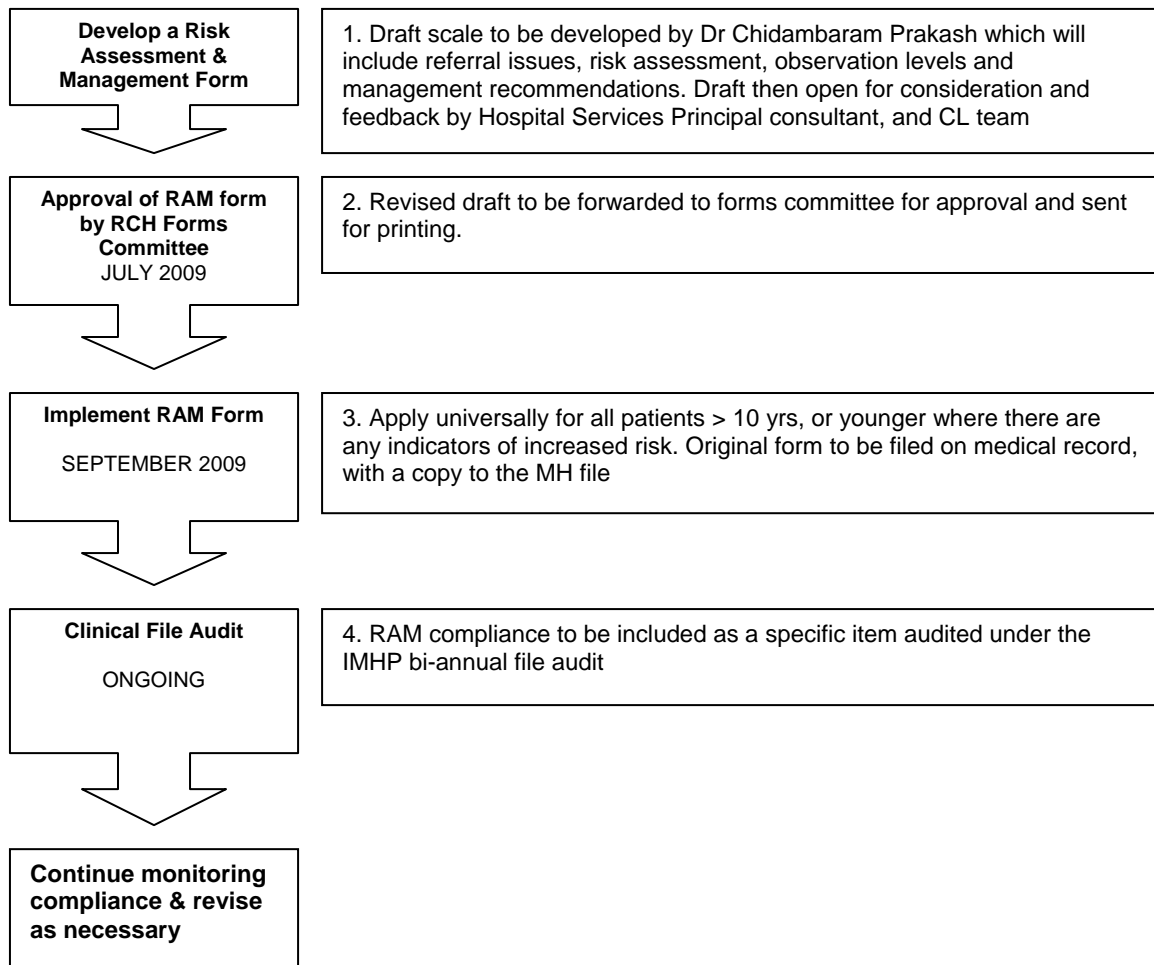
Issue Definition

The project supports the RCH's goal of quality and safety improvement by aiming to identify patients for whom there is a significant risk of suicide, self-harm or violence, and to effectively manage that risk by communicating clear management strategies to all ward staff.

Project & Outcomes

The IMHP Hospital Suicide Risk Management project aims to substantially improve the identification and management of the risk of suicide, self-harm or violence by developing a form for the medical record to communicate levels of risk and recommendations about observation and management directly to ward staff.

The Process and Methodology of the Project are described schematically below:



Outcomes

Though the number of adverse events associated with self-harm and suicide is fortunately very low, it is expected that this project will lead to higher rates of identification of suicide / self-harm / violence ideation, as well as more reliable and effective risk management. It is expected that **all** CL-referred patients over 10 years of age will have a completed RAM form filed in the medical record.