

ADVANCE STATEMENTS BY PATIENTS IN A FORENSIC REGIONAL SECURE UNIT IN SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

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Introduction: Advance statements are expressions of wishes made by an individual anticipating future mental incapacity to express treatment choices, spiritual or cultural needs and to nominate someone to be consulted in the event of future incapacity. Advance statements about medical treatment are usually positively-framed treatment choices or requests. An advance statement could also inform the process of determining a person's best interests under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 procedure. Advance Directives project was initiated at Langdon Hospital (Regional Secure Unit with medium and low secure as well as open Forensic wards) in early 2011 and rolled out across site by late 2011.

Aims and objectives: To audit the opportunity for patients at Langdon Hospital to have Advance Statements in place and its recording on Rio electronic system. To find out areas within the procedure that need improvement and changes.

Methods: Data was collected from Rio electronic records of all patients of all wards at Langdon Hospital during a 3 week period.

Results and conclusions: Most wards had offered above 80% of patients a chance to make Advance Statements. 2 wards achieved 100%. The uptake by patients who were offered an opportunity was high at 70%. Most patients prefer to have a named advocate. In some cases patients specifically asked for a relative not to be involved. Improvement needed in using recommended format and uploading it to Rio. Some staff were concentrating mainly on physical health/end of life decisions. Improvement needed in including questions related to management of future aggression and violence.