The Utility of the HoNOS-Secure in Low Secure Mental Health Settings

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Low secure forensic mental health (FMH) setting provide a bridge between higher community and the community

Measuring change over time is an essential task for forensic mental health services – little research on measures to use

Review of outcome measures in 308 FMH studies revealed only 9 in 5+ (Chambers et al, 2009)

Health of the Nation Outcome Scale – secure (HoNOS-s; Sugarman and Walker, 2007) one of only 6 (of 19) suitable for routine outcome measurement (Shinkfield & Ogloff, 2014)
HONOS-S

- Designed to assess health and social functioning in secure settings (Royal College of Psychiatrists, 2014)

- Team ratings of individual using 0-3 scale (with descriptors)

- Two subscales:
  - Security
  - Clinical
Security

◆ 7 items
◆ Risk of:
  ◆ harm to others
  ◆ self-harm
  ◆ individual from others
◆ Need for
  ◆ building security
  ◆ a safely staffed living environment
  ◆ escort on leave
  ◆ risk management procedures)
Clinical

◆ 12 items
  ◆ Aggressive behaviour
  ◆ Self-harm
  ◆ Substance misuse
  ◆ Cognitive problems
  ◆ Physical disability
  ◆ Delusions and hallucinations
  ◆ Depressive mood
  ◆ Other psychological symptoms
  ◆ Relationship problems
  ◆ Problems with
    ◆ daily living activities
    ◆ living condition
    ◆ occupation
Study aims

- To evaluate utility of HoNOS-s within a low secure adult mental health setting
  - Change over time
  - Relationship between HoNOS-s scores and discharge location
Sample

- Single unit – sequential admissions
  - Male aged 18 – 65 years
  - Primary diagnosis of schizophrenia
  - History of risky behaviour and / or offending
  - Unit approach eg multi-professional, integration, GLM (Davies et al, 2010)
  - Various treatments inc group (Nagi et al, 2014) and family (Nagi & Davies, 2015)

- 24 individuals with at least one HoNOS-s completed
  - Set time points for analyses (min. 12 month intervals)
    - Admission n=24
    - At discharge n=12
    - After 12 months in low secure n=7
Results

- 58 HoNOS-s ratings

- Inter rater reliability (Cronbach’s alpha values):
  - Clinical scale - 0.735
  - Security security - 0.636
Whole sample results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At admission (Time 1: n=24)</th>
<th>After 12 months in secure care (Time 2: n=7)</th>
<th>At Discharge (Time 3: n=12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>4.83</td>
<td>7.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No significant difference
Sub-sample analyses

◆ Whole group analyses hide very important findings
  ◆ Significant decrease in scores ($t(18) = 2.810, p < 0.05$) between admission and discharge when only those with both included
  ◆ Significant difference in admission scores between those who left before 12 months and those who were discharged later ($t (17) = -2.475, p < 0.05$).
  ◆ Average admission scores for those who exited the service within 12 months similar to the discharge score for those discharged later
    ◆ Mean total = 21
    ◆ Mean security = 8
    ◆ Mean clinical = 12
HONOS-s and discharge location

- Discharges to a wide range of services
- Two services with 4+ discharges
  - Four to 5 bed nurse staffed house
  - Six to 24 bed social care staffed house
Conclusions

- HONOS-s can provide important information for use in low secure settings.

- May be sub-groups within low secure (e.g. by length of stay; discharge location).

- May be ‘typical’ discharge scores.

- HoNOS-s may be able to help inform discharge route.


