

# Clinical Re-audit to Screen for Substance Misuse in Patients Admitted with Psychosis as per NICE Guidelines CG120

Dr Fatima Abubakar, Dr Hany El-sayeh, Dr Daniel Whitney, Rachael Dunnill  
Psychiatric Unit (The Briary), Harrogate District Hospital

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Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

## BACKGROUND

Substance misuse is an important issue to address when caring for a patient presenting with psychotic symptoms.

Substance misuse is a broad term encompassing, in this guideline, the harmful use of any psychotropic substance, including alcohol and either legal or illicit drugs. Use of such substances is harmful when it has a negative effect on a person's life, including their physical and mental health, relationships, work, education and finances or leads to offending behaviour.

Previous research suggests that patients with schizophrenia have a higher tendency than the average population to abuse substances.

Substance abuse has been shown to increase severity of symptoms, suicidal thoughts and having poorer response to treatment.

## AIM

To look at how well relevant information is gathered regarding substance misuse in psychotic patients in order to best care for them.

## METHODS

Patients admitted to psychiatric ward (Cedar) Harrogate, with an ICD-10 diagnosis of F20-F29 were selected in the month of August and September 2015. (n=4)

Data from patients' electronic record (PARIS) within 72 hours of admission were analyzed using a designated audit tool (depicted in Fig 1)

A standard of 100% was set for each criteria of the NICE Guideline CG120.



Figure 1

## RESULTS

Criteria	%Achieved
Record of being questioned about alcohol	100
Record of being questioned about legal/illicit drug use	100
Evidence that patient was asked about type of substance used	50
Evidence that patient was asked about quantity used (+frequency and pattern)	0
Evidence that patient was asked about route of administration	0
Duration of current level of use	50
Assessment of withdrawal	33
Evidence of a Urine drug screen with 72 hours	25

Comparison between results of previous audit with the results of re-audit

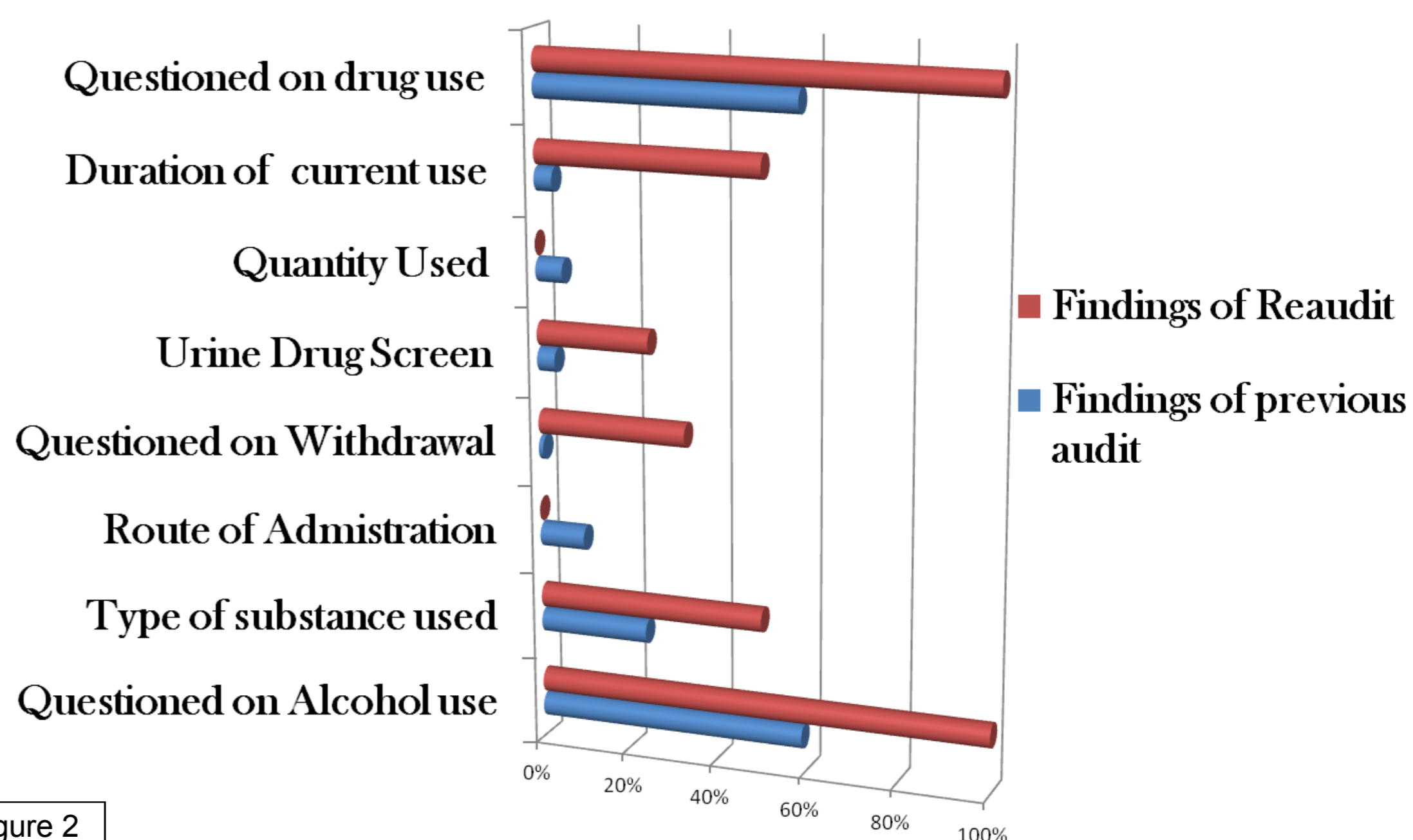


Figure 2

Table 1 reveals the result of this audit. Comparing this result with previous audit (Fig 3) there has been a general increase in the standards by an average of 24%. Out of the 4 patients identified, all of them (100%) were questioned about alcohol and illicit drug use. In contrast, asking about route of administration and quantity seems to be frequently left out during interviews.

## CONCLUSION

As a comparison to previous work done, it is clear that there are improvements in the standards. Some areas are yet to reach their 100% target. By using recommendations (below) made by this project, these areas will be the subject of further re-audits.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- . To make reference to guidelines in Junior Doctor's handbook.
- . To raise awareness through teaching sessions/audit meetings.
- . To document clearly all the relevant information gathered including result of Urine Drug Screen on electronic record (PARIS)
- . Re-audit within a year

## REFERENCES

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