

Topic

Increasing capacity in forensic patient-oriented research

Key question

How can we best adapt guidelines and best practices for patient-oriented research in the forensic context?

Project aims

Forensic patients are some of the most vulnerable in society. Yet there is little research on patient-centered care in forensic psychiatric hospitals in Canada. By engaging patients in forensic research, we can improve forensic patients' safety and experiences of care.

This project is based at both Waypoint and the Regional Psychiatric Centre, a medium-security forensic facility in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The goal is to develop the expertise and tools we need to embed patient-oriented policies and practices in our research programs. The project takes an ethical, culturally safe approach that centers the lived experiences of forensic patients.

Activities

- Building strong relationships with patients and their families, hospital leaders, clinicians, researchers, and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders.
- Synthesizing existing knowledge on patient-oriented research in forensic settings.
- Developing trainings, resources, policies, and guidance for forensic patient-oriented research. Working with a pilot group to test and refine these products.
- Sharing learnings and resources through a Canada-wide learning community.

Helpful terms

- **Forensic patients:** Patients with serious mental illnesses who have become involved with the criminal justice system.
- **Patient-oriented research:** Research that involves patients and their families and caregivers in every part of the research process.

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