

Tool that May Help Prevent the Use of Seclusion in Forensic Psychiatric Hospitals

Keywords

*Seclusion; forensic patients;
Risk of Administrative
Segregation Tool*

Helpful Terms

Forensic patients: Patients with serious mental illnesses who have become involved with the criminal justice system.

Seclusion: Procedures to isolate a patient from others.

Segregation: The placement of a prisoner in a separate area, where the individual is isolated from the general prison population and may be subjected to restriction on their activities, movements and interactions with others.

The Risk of Administrative Segregation Tool (RAST): A screening tool used to assess the risk of harm to prisoners placed in segregation.

Project Title: *The roles of antisociality and neurodevelopmental problems in criminal violence and clinical outcomes among male forensic inpatients*

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Key Question

- Does the Risk of Administrative Segregation Tool (RAST) identify forensic patients at risk of segregation?

Project Aims

To persons using inpatient psychiatric services, seclusion is coercive and potentially traumatizing. Poor use of seclusion has resulted in patient injuries and even death. There are widespread attempts to reduce seclusion use in hospitals and forensic settings. The ability to identify patients at risk of prolonged seclusion could aid these efforts, if combined with proactive plans to manage problematic behaviour in other ways.

The Risk of Administrative Segregation Tool (RAST) was created to identify offenders at risk of segregation in Canadian correctional institutions. This project tests whether the RAST identifies similar risks among forensic patients, who are admitted to forensic hospital because of their involvement with the criminal justice system.

Activities

- Testing the RAST to assess whether it can identify forensic patients at risk of segregation.
- Modifying the RAST to better fit the forensic population.