

Weight Gain Related to Length of Stay in Forensic Institutions

Keywords

Weight gain; forensic patients; medical record review

Helpful Terms

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

Project Title: *Weight gain and its correlates among forensic inpatients*

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Key Question

- Do some patient characteristics or aspects of their treatment increase their weight gain?

Project Aims

People with mental disorders die younger than those without, largely due to preventable causes, such as heart disease. Weight and obesity are risk factors for heart disease. Many studies show that drug treatments for mental illness cause people to gain weight. However, this research rarely includes forensic patients, who are admitted to forensic hospitals because of their involvement with the criminal justice system.

This project studies the medical records of men admitted to a forensic hospital, in order to see whether they gained weight each month during their stay. The study tests whether some patient characteristics, or aspects of their treatment — e.g., medication — increase their weight gain.

Activities

- Examining the medical records of men admitted to a forensic hospital to monitor changes in their weight during their stay.
- Assessing patient or treatment characteristics to see which may increase forensic patients' weight gain.