

SAND abstract No. 116 from the BEACH program 2007–08

Subject: Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder among general practice patients

Organisations supporting this study: Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd

Issues: The proportion of patients attending general practice who had a history of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder; the management plans these patients were on (shared care plan with a community mental health centre (CMHC), private psychiatrist, treatment order or a discharge plan from hospital or CMHC); number of GP visits by these patients in the previous 3 months; management of general health risk factors in these patients.

Sample: 3,374 respondents from 116 GPs; data collection period: 5/06/2007 – 16/07/2007 and 30/10/2007 – 31/11/2007.

Method: Detailed in the paper entitled 'SAND Method 2007-08' on this website: <www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND_abstracts.htm>.

Summary of results

Patient sex was provided at 3,353 encounters, with 60.7% (95% CI: 57.9–63.6) being female patients, which is slightly higher than the proportion in the BEACH 2006–07 data (56.3 95% CI: 55.5–57.1). Patient age was provided at 3,349 encounters. The age distribution of patients was similar to that reported for all 2006–07 BEACH encounters.

Of the 3,374 respondents, 50 had a history of schizophrenia (schizophrenia/schizoaffective/schizophreniform/paranoid psychosis) (1.5%, 95% CI: 1.0–1.9), and 36 had a history of bipolar disorder (1.1%, 95% CI: 0.6–1.5), with no differences in age- and sex-specific rates.

Of the 48 patients with schizophrenia who responded, 20 (41.7%) were being managed as part of a shared care program with a CMHC; 11 (22.9%) with a management plan with a private psychiatrist, and over one-third with none of the listed plans. Of the 32 patients with bipolar who responded, nearly half ($n=15$, 47%) were using none of the listed plans, one-third ($n=11$, 34%) had a management plan with a private psychiatrist, and 5 (16%) had a shared care plan with a CMHC.

Of the 46 patients with schizophrenia who responded, the median number of visits to a GP in the previous 3 months was 5.0, and for the 40 who responded, the median number of visits where schizophrenia was managed was 3.0. Of the 34 bipolar patients who responded, the median number of visits was 2.5, and for the 31 who responded the median number of treatment visits was 1.0. Nearly half of the bipolar patients ($n=14$, 45%) did not have their bipolar treated in the previous 3 months.

Of the 49 schizophrenia patients who responded, 27 (55%) had their cardiovascular risks/hypertension checked or managed; 25 (51%) had obesity/high BMI checked or managed; and 24 (49%) had diabetes/high blood glucose checked or managed, either at the current encounter or in the previous 3 months. Of the 33 bipolar patients who responded, 23 (70%) had their cardiovascular risks/hypertension checked or managed; 12 (36%) had obesity/high BMI checked or managed; and over half had diabetes/high blood glucose checked or managed ($n=20$, 61%), either at the current encounter or in the previous 3 months.

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AIHW Australian GP Statistics and Classification Centre, 2008. SAND abstract No. 116 from the BEACH program: Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in general practice patients. Sydney: AGPSCC University of Sydney. ISSN 1444-9072

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **SCHIZOPHRENIA** and **BIPOLAR DISORDER**.
You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS

This question applies to the following section on Schizophrenia and Bipolar disorder, but as it relates to your practice rather than individual patients we will **only ask it once**.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION HERE and then continue with the remaining questions for the next 30 patients.

Please note: In each category we are asking for the **number of nurses** and **how many days** (or part days) **per week** they work so that we can calculate the **full-time equivalents** for these.

Available support

In managing patients with **mental health problems**, do you have **support** in your practice from **any** of the following sources?

If **none** are available, please tick the box labelled 'none of the above'.

Do you have support in your practice from: *(tick all that apply)*

- Mental health nurse (employed by the practice) _____ nurse/s _____ days/wk
- Mental health nurse (employed by the area health service) _____ nurse/s _____ days/wk
- Practice nurse _____ nurse/s _____ days/wk
- GP Shared care liaison/coordinator
- None of the above

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **SCHIZOPHRENIA and BIPOLAR DISORDER**.
 You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS

Ask **ALL** of the **next 30 PATIENTS** the following questions in the order in which the patients are seen.

Please **DO NOT** select patients to suit the topic being investigated.

Schizophrenia / Bipolar disorders

Please use the tick boxes to advise whether this patient has a history of any of the listed Schizophrenia / Bipolar disorder conditions.

If the patient does not have a history of any of these conditions please end the questions here.

Frequency of management

Please write in the spaces provided the approximate **number of times** the patient has visited a GP for any reason in the past 3 months. Use patient recall, your notes or knowledge, to give the best estimate. Please also write the approximate number of GP visits at which their **schizophrenia / bipolar disorder** was **managed** during that time. (Please include **today's** consultation in the total.) If you **do not know** the number for either, please tick the box labelled '**don't know**'.

Patient's social circumstances

Please use the tick boxes to advise the patient's **living situation**.

If the patient is aged between 14yrs 9 mths and 65 yrs, please use the tick boxes to advise what level of **employment** they are **capable of undertaking**.

Is the patient on a **disability pension**?

Management plan

If the patient has a history of any of the previously listed **schizophrenia / bipolar conditions**, please advise whether their condition is **being managed** via any of the methods below.

(CMHC = Community Mental Health Centre)

Health screening

Please use the tick boxes to advise whether the patient was **checked / managed** either at **today's visit, in the 3 months prior to today's visit, or both** (if both, tick both boxes), for any of the listed **conditions or risk factors**. Tick as many as apply.

If the patient was **not checked / managed** for any of these conditions or risk factors, either **today or in the 3 months prior to today's visit**, please tick the boxes labelled '**none of the above**'.

If you **do not know** whether any of these conditions were **checked / managed** in the past 3 months, please tick the box labelled '**don't know**'.

<p>Does this patient have a history of:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia <input type="checkbox"/> Schizoaffective disorder / Schizophreniform / paranoid psychosis <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar disorder manic <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar disorder depressive <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar disorder mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above → end here	<p>Is the patient being managed as part of:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Shared care program with CMHC (tick all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Management plan with private psychiatrist <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge plan from hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge plan from CMHC <input type="checkbox"/> Community / involuntary treatment order <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <p style="text-align: right;">BL93B</p>	<p>Approx. how many times has this patient visited a GP in the past 3 months?</p> <p>No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p> <p>At approx. how many of these was the schizophrenia / bipolar disorder managed?</p> <p>No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>	<p>Was the patient checked/managed for: (tick all that apply)</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Today</th> <th>In past 3 mths</th> <th>Don't know</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cardiovascular risk/hypertension.....</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Obesity / ↑ BMI</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diabetes / ↑ blood glucose</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women's / men's health screen.....</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alcohol abuse</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other substance abuse.....</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoking cessation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>None of the above</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Today	In past 3 mths	Don't know	Cardiovascular risk/hypertension.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Obesity / ↑ BMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes / ↑ blood glucose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women's / men's health screen.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other substance abuse.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smoking cessation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Patient's social factors</p> <p>Living situation</p> <input type="checkbox"/> hostel/supported <input type="checkbox"/> alone <input type="checkbox"/> with family/shared <p>Employment capability</p> <input type="checkbox"/> full time <input type="checkbox"/> part time <input type="checkbox"/> sheltered work <input type="checkbox"/> none of above <p>Disability pensioner</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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