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.


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
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
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.

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)

Does this patient have a history of:

- [ ] Schizophrenia
- [ ] Schizoaffective disorder / Schizoaffective disorder / Schizophreniform / paranoid psychosis
- [ ] Bipolar disorder manic
- [ ] Bipolar disorder depressive
- [ ] Bipolar disorder mixed
- [ ] None of the above  →  end here

Is the patient being managed as part of:

- [ ] (tick all that apply)
- [ ] Shared care program with CMHC
- [ ] Management plan with private psychiatrist
- [ ] Discharge plan from hospital
- [ ] Discharge plan from CMHC
- [ ] Community / involuntary treatment order
- [ ] None of the above

Approx. how many times has this patient visited a GP in the past 3 months?

No. ______  □ Don’t know

At approx. how many of these was the schizophrenia / bipolar disorder managed?

No. ______  □ Don’t know

Was the patient checked/managed for:

- [ ] (tick all that apply)
- [ ] Cardiovascular risk/hypertension
- [ ] Obesity / ↑ BMI
- [ ] Diabetes / ↑ blood glucose
- [ ] Women’s / men’s health screen
- [ ] Alcohol abuse
- [ ] Other substance abuse
- [ ] Smoking cessation
- [ ] None of the above

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?

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’.

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’.

Frequency of management

Average how many times has this patient visited a GP in the past 3 months?

No. ______  □ Don’t know

At approx. how many of these was the schizophrenia / bipolar disorder managed?

No. ______  □ Don’t know

Was the patient checked/managed for:

- [ ] (tick all that apply)
- [ ] Cardiovascular risk/hypertension
- [ ] Obesity / ↑ BMI
- [ ] Diabetes / ↑ blood glucose
- [ ] Women’s / men’s health screen
- [ ] Alcohol abuse
- [ ] Other substance abuse
- [ ] Smoking cessation
- [ ] None of the above

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?