

NIHR Greater Manchester PSTRC

Plain English Publication Summary

Publication: [Learning from clinicians' views of good quality practice in mental healthcare services in the context of suicide prevention: a qualitative study](#)

Publication details (Vancouver format)

Littlewood DL, Quinlivan L, Graney J, Appleby L, Turnbull P, Webb RT, Kapur N. (2019). Learning from clinicians' views of good quality practice in mental healthcare services in the context of suicide prevention: a qualitative study. *BMC psychiatry*, 19(1), 346.

What are the most important findings/conclusions in this paper? Why are they important?

During our research, we found five themes that, according to clinicians, show good practice in mental health services in the context of suicide prevention. These are:

1. Promoting safer environments
2. Stronger family involvement
3. Access to personalised aftercare when it is needed
4. Smooth transitions between services
5. Building well skilled, resourced, and supported staff teams.

The findings are important because they highlight the benefits of including clinicians' views about good practice as well as the challenges involved in making routine, daily healthcare safer for patients.

What did you do?

We analysed data from the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) database, which contains information on suicides by people in contact with mental healthcare services. As part of the study, a large national sample of clinicians' responses was analysed.

Why did you conduct this research?

We did this research because, in order to improve services, it was important to understand clinicians' views on what good practice means in the context of suicide prevention in mental health services.

What was known before your paper was published?

Little was known about how clinicians perceive good practice in the context of suicide prevention in mental health services. The unique NCISH database has information about patients from all over the UK and we had the opportunity to use this to learn from examples of good practice that had been identified in previous reviews of care provided by mental healthcare services.

What is next? What is the potential impact of the work in this paper? What will change as a result of this paper (or the study it describes)?

This paper will help to develop understanding and close the gaps between evidence and practice in mental health services.

Does this paper link in to a particular study / project? If so, please summarise the study and explain how this paper has improved understanding, or will move the study forward.

The paper is linked to the "Family involvement and patient safety in mental health services" project led by Dr Louise Gorman in the NIHR Greater Manchester PSTRC. A further study has been developed to understand family involvement and patient safety in crisis and home treatment teams.