

CASE STUDY

Patient-Centered Care and Inpatient Efficiency with the Lincolnshire Acuity

The Lincolnshire Acuity Measures tool, a creation of our dedicated team, was introduced to enhance the process of logging acuity measures and risk scoring for secure inpatient units at the Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (LPFT). The primary objective of this tool is to track a patient's progress towards their discharge.

The tool was designed to evaluate patients' level of risk based on a variety of factors, as well as their progress or regression in several key areas. The intersection of these two sets of scores, when a patient becomes more independent and less risky, usually signifies the point at which discharge is appropriate.

The previous paper-based scoring system, though functional, faced several challenges. It was neither as efficient nor as transparent as desired, especially for a setting as critical as a secure inpatient unit. This system also limited data visualisation and storage, prompting the team to develop this new tool.

Method:

The LPFT collaborated with the EMAHSN Analytics and Evaluation Service to create an automated process and scoring system for electronically logging acuity measures. This solution provided real-time visualisations and graphs, enabling both patients and clinicians to track progress over time. The system also allowed clinicians to correlate scoring results with recent events for individual patients, identifying potential triggers or encouraging factors.

The success of this new scoring method was evaluated using a combination of quantitative and qualitative data. Key metrics were captured, and feedback from patients and staff was collected to assess acceptability. Additional data on referrals, incidents recorded, and financial outcomes were also analysed to demonstrate the tool's effectiveness.

“The AHSN helping us to develop a digital way to record acuity measures and risk scoring for our patients on the secure units will help our teams to better record and interpret patient scorings. The tool will help us to involve patients in discussions around their care, easily view patient progress over time and in future predict their likely discharge date”

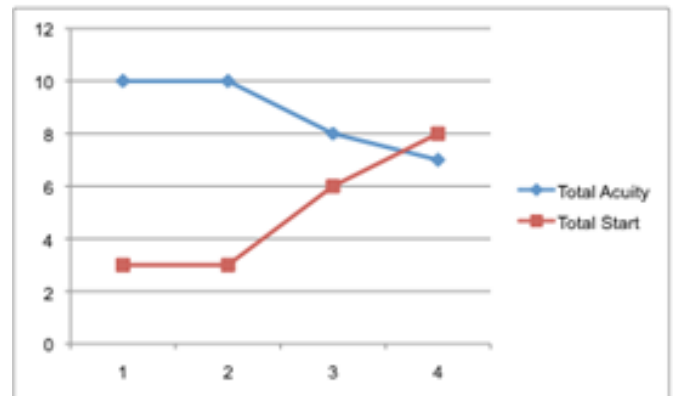
Paul Ince - Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust

Results:

The initial pilot of the Lincolnshire Acuity Measures tool revealed marked improvements in patient experience, with hints that it might positively influence the duration of their stay. By using this tool, patients could monitor their progress through a visual display—a graph—over time, gaining a clearer understanding of their journey towards independence and readiness for discharge.

Significantly, the point at which the two metric sets intersect on the graph, indicating progress towards independence and reduced risk, typically signifies that the patient is 'fit for discharge'. This visual representation provides patients with a clear goal to aim for, enhancing their motivation and comprehension of their recovery process.

The transition to an electronic scoring system has also been beneficial for clinicians. It allows for the efficient storage of historical scores and data, facilitating quick access and interpretation of a patient's progress. By observing correlations between scoring results and recent events, clinicians can discern possible triggers or encouraging factors for patients. This insight improves patient care by allowing for more tailored, responsive interventions.



Conclusion:

The Lincolnshire Acuity Measures project demonstrated the potential benefits of adopting a more transparent and efficient scoring mechanism for secure mental health settings. By integrating the electronic solution, the project successfully improved patient experience, data visualization, and decision-making for clinicians. This innovative approach to assessment and evaluation could be suitable for adoption and spread across various secure mental health settings, leading to enhanced patient care and overall efficiency.

Contact us

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