

What can I do if I want to find out more?

We are keen to share information about **CRIS** with service users, carers and staff. We are holding a series of open sessions to discuss **CRIS** with anyone who wants to know more. Information about these sessions can be found on our website: <http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/CRIS>.

Alternatively, if you have any questions, or if you would rather not have your records in CRIS and/or linked with external datasets, please contact:

CRIS Administrator,
BRC Nucleus, Mapother House
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, Denmark Hill,
London, SE5 8AZ

or email: cris.administrator@slam.nhs.uk

The CRIS team



CRIS is a project supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London.



Introducing CRIS

We have developed a computer system that allows us to carry out research and Trust audits using information from the Trust's clinical records.

We call this system **CRIS**: the **C**linical **R**ecord **I**nteractive **S**earch system.

CRIS is safe and secure. It does not reveal your personal details to Trust researchers.

We believe CRIS can make a real and positive difference to future treatments and care.

What sort of things will CRIS help with?

CRIS helps us to look at real life situations in large quantities. This means it's easier to see patterns and trends – e.g. what works for some and doesn't for others.

We may link information about your treatment and care in the Trust with other aspects of your healthcare. This will help to improve physical and mental health as a whole. As an example, information about patients who had both mental health illness and cancer was linked to look at the impact of mental illness on cancer survival rates. We have also created a linkage with local GP records to help us learn how to improve the physical health of patients with severe mental illness.

Here are a few of the things we've been looking at so far:

- How do physical health conditions and medications affect people with Alzheimer's disease?
- Should women continue to take mental health medications during pregnancy?
- How do mental health conditions in children and teenagers affect their school performance?

How are your personal details protected?

CRIS transforms clinical information so that it is anonymous. Your clinical details can be used in research but your personal details cannot. The computer removes or covers up any information that can identify you. Your name, the name of your carer, your full date of birth, address, postcode and phone numbers are replaced with 'ZZZZZ' like this:

December 06 ZZZZ ZZZZ
ZZZZ ZZZZ
ZZZZ Dear ZZZZ Re: Anger
Management Group I am writing
to confirm that the next Anger
Management Group will
commence on Monday 14th
January 2013 for 10 weeks.

In order to carry out data linkages we sometimes need to share identifiable information (for example NHS number, name, and date of birth) to trusted third parties, such as NHS Digital.

Full information on all data linkages with CRIS can be found on the following website:

<http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/cris-data-linkages/>

Data linkage with external organisations is legally permitted by the Health Research Authority under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006. This approval enables temporary use of identifiers for accurate linkage. This is always done in a secure environment. Once records have been linked, all identifiable information is destroyed and the data are fully anonymised prior to it being used for any research.

CRIS has received ethical approval from an independent (non-Trust) research ethics committee, as a safe, secure and confidential information source for research.

We will continue to seek the permission of independent organisations outside the Trust to assess our arrangements. This is to make sure that the security of your information and your confidentiality is always protected.

Who can access CRIS?

CRIS is available only to researchers who have a contract with the Trust. These researchers might work in collaboration with other organisations (both 'not-for-profit' and 'for-profit'). The information in **CRIS** is protected by strict Trust information security. It cannot be accessed or taken outside the Trust in any form.

How will CRIS affect individual care delivery right now?

We believe **CRIS** can make a real and positive difference to future treatments and care. However, the research made possible by **CRIS** is unlikely to impact directly on care right now.

