

Issue 17 August 2018

News

Website Updates

We have made some updates to our website including the addition of information on the eLIXIR study on the CRIS Data Linkages [page](#) and an update to the CRIS Publications [page](#) to include all the new publications from 2018 so far.

Request for Input

We have had a request from a research group who are applying for funding to conduct a CRIS linkage project looking at the interaction between mental and physical health. They are interested in getting your feedback on what areas of physical health you think are the most important for them to focus on:

We are a group of researchers from Kings College London and University College London interested to know which physical health conditions are more likely to co-exist with severe mental illness (SMI). We would like to use CRIS and its existing linkages to know which physical health conditions might be more common and understand more about how physical and mental health conditions might interact. We would like to hear your thoughts about which area of physical health (e.g., cardiovascular, musculoskeletal) you think is more likely to be affected or whether you have any specific concerns on the connections between mental and physical health that you believe we should address. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7989VJD> and we are happy to hear any suggestions or questions via e-mail: rebecca.bendayan@kcl.ac.uk.

Research Spotlight

In each newsletter we will highlight recent research that has been conducted using linked data, if you would like to know more about any particular piece of work please let us know.

Long-Term Antipsychotic Polypharmacy Prescribing and the Risk of Mortality

Polypharmacy is the use of multiple medications by a patient at the same time. Previous research has suggested that polypharmacy within antipsychotic medication may contribute to an increased

risk of mortality in people with serious mental illness. Therefore a group of researchers at the Maudsley BRC decided to examine this relationship using mental health information from CRIS linked to death certificate data from the Office for National Statistics Mortality data.

The team identified all adult patients with a serious mental illness in CRIS and extracted information on the medications they had been prescribed, using a process called Natural Language Processing or NLP. NLP is an automatic method for pulling information from free text and structuring it, using NLP means that researchers don't have to read lots of notes in order to manually find the information they need. For example if a doctor was to write "I prescribed 500mg of paracetamol" in somebodies notes, the NLP application would be able to structure that into a table:

Drug	Dose
Paracetamol	500mg

As well as information on medication, the team also extracted information on other factors that may have had an effect including age, gender, relationship status, and smoking status. Using the linkage with ONS Mortality data the team were able to identify who in the group had died.

The researchers found that patients on long term antipsychotic polypharmacy had a small increased risk of mortality especially for natural causes of death but that this relationship was not clear cut. They recommend that future research should focus on looking at the risk for mortality associated with specific antipsychotic combinations.

If you would like to read the paper in full it is available [here](#).

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 27th September**, from **4-6pm**, at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience. We look forward to seeing you then!

Future Newsletters

If there is anything that you would like to see in future newsletters or if you would like more information about something mentioned in a newsletter, you can contact Amelia or Megan via email: amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk / megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk, or phone: 020 3228 8554.