Professional practice

Is communication improving between general practitioners and psychiatrists?

IAN M PULLIN, ALEX J YELLOWLEES

Abstract

General practitioners and psychiatrists communicate mainly by letter. To assess the most important factors that influence whether letters are received and read, we devised a postal survey. A total of 103 referral letters sent by psychiatric clinics in 1983 and 1984 were studied. The frequency of reading and understanding, by general practitioners, of letters from three patients was compared. General practitioners' letters contain more information when the family has more psychiatric illness and when at least one or more psychiatric issues are discussed. General practitioners' letters contain less information when the family has more psychiatric illness and when at least one or more psychiatric issues are discussed. 

References


Discussion

The results of the survey are consistent with the hypothesis that the frequency of reading and understanding of letters from patients is influenced by the severity of psychiatric illness. The results also suggest that the frequency of reading and understanding of letters from patients is influenced by the level of psychiatric illness. 

Practice Research

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Drug users in contact with general practice

J R ROBERTSON

Abstract

A group of heroin users who are in contact with a general practitioner in north west England are described. The study looks at the number of injections made by each user and the amount of heroin used. The study looks at the number of injections made by each user and the amount of heroin used.

Results

Introduction

Drug users who use heroin are at risk of contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The study looks at the number of injections made by each user and the amount of heroin used. The study looks at the number of injections made by each user and the amount of heroin used.

Method

In a large Scottish general practice council held in north west Scotland, 36 heroin users were interviewed. The study looks at the number of injections made by each user and the amount of heroin used. The study looks at the number of injections made by each user and the amount of heroin used.