

Introduction

The Finnish forensic psychiatric service system lacks the standards and criteria guiding the quality and contents of patient care. There is also a need to increase awareness and assessment skills of violence risk at the general psychiatric level and to support them with forensic expertise. This will help in building a continuum of national service provision.

The aim of this research project is to develop safe, high-quality psychiatric care. The project aims to establish quality criteria for the forensic psychiatric care and service system to enhance the safety of mental health care workplaces.

Methods

The study will be executed at the Department of Nursing Science of the University of Turku during 2023-2026. The research methods include a literature review, a survey based on validated measurement questionnaires (Downes Survey, QPC-FIP, QPC-FIPS), individual and group interviews as well as the Delphi method.

The research will cover the multidisciplinary employees at adult psychiatric wards in Finland's larger hospital districts, employees of forensic psychiatric hospitals, and patients of forensic psychiatric hospitals. International specialists and specialists from various fields (nursing, medicine, psychology), both nationally and internationally, will be invited to partake in the expert panel.

Results

The research results will allow the development of the service system for forensic psychiatric patients in such a way that the identification of so-called risk patients can be improved already at the early stages of treatment, at the general psychiatric level.

Moreover, the substance of care and participation during care can be created and the care following inpatient care and the patient's transfer out of forensic psychiatric care can be developed. The research may promote the effectiveness of treatment by highlighting areas in the care chains that, when reinforced, will allow patients to receive the right kind of treatment at the right time.

Conclusions

This research project will produce new scientific, societal and practical knowledge about the service system and care pathway of forensic psychiatric patients from the perspectives of the patients and the treatment providers. It will produce new information about the competence and abilities related to psychiatric patient risk assessment in psychiatry.

In this research project, quality standards will be created for the care of forensic psychiatric patients in Finland to ensure that the care provided is equal, effective and patient-centred, regardless of where the care is given, which can be considered as a scientific and tangible accomplishment.



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