Decreasing Assaults in the In-Patient Psychiatric Setting: An Evidence-Based Approach to a Quality Improvement Process

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Gundersen Lutheran Health System

- Located in La Crosse, Wisconsin on the Upper Mississippi River
- Service area covers 19 counties in three states; Western Wisconsin, Southeast Minnesota and Northeast Iowa
- 41 clinic locations
- Physician-led organization
- Clinic founded in 1891 and Hospital in 1902
The threat of assault and personal injury can evoke anxiety, fear and potential job dissatisfaction for in-patient psychiatry staff.

**Predictors of assault include:**

1. Prior history of assault
2. Diagnostic indicators (PTSD, Alzheimer’s/dementia, alcohol or substance abuse disorders, agitated mania, acute psychotic disorders/paranoia)
3. Staff Provocation
4. Pre-assaultive tension state
Rosswurm and Larrabee Model

- **Assess** need for change in practice
- **Link** problem interventions and outcomes
- **Synthesize** best evidence
- **Design** practice change
- **Implement and Evaluate** change in practice
- **Integrate and Maintain** change in practice

**Interim Markers**

- Staff who have received crisis prevention training
- Staff compliance
- State or Regulatory Agency requirements or recommendations
- Post Assault debriefing strategy
- Standards of Care
### Crisis Debriefing

1. *How did staff feel during the crisis? After the crisis?*

2. *Lead to reassess the event. Stuff to add comments.*

3. *Did everyone know who the team leader was? Comments:*  

4. *Did the team leader give clear directions? Comments:*  

5. *Did only one person speak to the acting out person? Comments:*  

6. *Was any member of the team escalate the situation? Comments:*  

7. *Was physical restraint necessary? Comments:*  

8. *Was physical restraint performed properly? Comments:*  


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### Sinead O’Connor: Ireland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Admission Date</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
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**Patient Information:**

- Name: [Patient Name]  
- Date of Birth: [DOB]  
- Admission Date: [Admission Date]  
- Diagnosis: [Diagnosis]

**Nurse’s Initials:** [Nurse Initials]

**Date:** [Date]  

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### Infection Control

- [Infection Control Procedures]

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**Sinead O’Connor:** [Ireland]

- [Additional Information]

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**Nurse:** [Nurse Name]

**Date:** [Date]  

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**Reference:** [Reference]  

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**Revision date:** [Revision Date]
Preventing staff and patient injury is a primary goal of every acute care psychiatric facility. The utilization of evidence-based practices can decrease assaults and promote a healthy workplace.