

Keeping healthcare water safe – 2020 challenges

Tuesday 23 June 2020

RIBA 66 Portland Place, Marylebone, London W1B 1AD



This one-day seminar, organised by the RSPH will cover topics which are still proving to be a challenge for estate managers, infection prevention and control teams, Water Safety Groups, water treatment and risk assessment providers, specialist water safety advisers, Authorising Engineers (water) and microbiologists.

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Speakers who are recognised experts in their field will discuss the difficulties in managing the conflict between managing water temperature in healthcare premises to prevent infections versus the risk of scalding.

With the prevention of waterborne infections continuing to be an ongoing challenge, the panel will debate the essential role of Water Safety Plans and Water Safety Groups to keep our healthcare water safe, especially in relation to waterborne pathogens.

Hot topics for discussion will include;

- The new BS 8680 Code of Practice for Water Safety Plans
- The impact of Thermostatic Mixing Valves (TMVs) on managing water safety
- Risks from new hospital systems with highly susceptible patients
- How to ensure new water systems are designed safely
- The impact of contamination from splashing and waste systems on patient safety
- Waterborne transmission of antibiotic resistance
- Climate change

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FEATURE

Mobilising communities to address alcohol harm: an Alcohol Health Champion approach

In this article, Cathy Ure et al. look at engaging communities in order to reduce alcohol harms. By training Alcohol Health Champions, individuals can support vulnerable friends and family, and work within their communities to influence policy and promote change.

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BACKGROUND

Globally, harmful drinking results in six deaths every minute.¹

The evidence indicates that restricting the availability of alcohol, and early

identification and brief advice (IBA) are effective interventions to reduce alcohol harm.² Furthermore, recent work suggests that there is a need to engage communities in actions to reduce

alcohol harm.³ In order to tackle the high social and economic cost of alcohol, estimated to be £1.3 bn per year or £500 per resident,⁴ the UK city region of Greater Manchester

(GM) implemented an innovative programme to reduce alcohol harm in September 2017. This asset- and place-based community development approach⁶ – called *Communities in Charge of Alcohol* (CICA) – aims to reduce alcohol harm in specific deprived areas across 10 local authorities.⁷

The CICA programme trains local volunteers within specific communities to become alcohol health champions (AHCs) – the first time to our knowledge

The high social and economic cost of alcohol, estimated to be £1.3 bn per year or £500 per resident



Alcohol Health Champions are trained to:

- Have informal conversations about alcohol and health with family, friends, and colleagues and to use the Audit-C (an alcohol harm assessment tool in the form of a scratch card with three questions around alcohol consumption);
- Support people to reduce drinking through brief advice or guiding them towards specialist services;
- Provide local support for communities to get involved with licensing decisions by helping them raise issues with the local authority about venues selling alcohol;
- Work with other members of the community and professionals to influence alcohol policy/availability in their community;
- Train others to become AHCs (first generation AHCs only).



that such a role has been established. This article introduces the role of AHCs, talks about who they are, and provides a glimpse into their experiences to date.

THE ROLE OF AHCS

AHCs are lay people living or working in the areas where CICA was implemented and who have gained the RSPH Level 2 Award 'Understanding Alcohol Misuse' accreditation as a result of partaking in the CICA training programme. This award – a bespoke design for CICA – entails two days of learning in relation to alcohol awareness and giving brief advice. Unique to the AHC role is also learning about the Licensing Act 2003. This knowledge enables community members to build relationships with

local licensing officers, have a voice, and influence licensing decisions locally. The initial cohort of AHCs also received Train the Trainer input to enable them to train future volunteers to become AHCs. AHCs are recruited and supported by a locally assigned CICA co-ordinator (staff already employed in lifestyle provider services or Tier 3 alcohol services).

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

In the first 18 months, 123 new health volunteers were trained as AHCs. Motivations for becoming an AHC included being a 'concerned relative', wanting to help others, personal experience of alcohol dependence, a general desire to learn more about alcohol, working in the local community, and/or gaining a qualification. The AHCs' predominant focus to date has been on providing brief advice within their communities. Data from five areas show that: 65 community events were attended by AHCs; 1129 conversations took place with members of their communities; and 249 AUDIT-C assessments completed.⁸ Experiences of getting involved in licensing were less commonly reported by AHCs, but individual stories highlighted examples where AHCs had reported issues to local

licensing leads and had raised awareness of local licensing powers within the community. AHCs cited concerns about being publicly identifiable as a barrier to engagement in formal licensing processes.

WHAT BENEFITS DO AHCS REPORT?

It was evident from early in the programme that there was considerable social value

This knowledge enables community members to build relationships with local licensing officers, have a voice, and influence licensing decisions locally

gained from becoming an AHC. Inspiring stories relating to the personal benefits to AHCs include: gaining permanent employment; increased confidence; developing positive, supportive friendships; widening social networks; reduced personal levels of alcohol use; and feeling good about making a difference. Indeed, one of the challenges

barriers and facilitators which have affected the implementation, recruitment, training, and ongoing support of AHCs. It has become evident that the effective implementation of the AHC training, and integration of the role to deliver alcohol harm reduction activities into local plans is a process which needs time to bed in, facilitated by ongoing support from local commissioners. It is really pleasing that, two years after initial launch, five local authorities across GM continue to recruit and train AHCs. Locally, the value of AHCs is recognised with local co-ordinators inspired by their AHCs' desire to tackle alcohol harm and the personal benefits to health and wellbeing gained by the AHCs themselves. More information about the role of AHCs is available at <http://hub.salford.ac.uk/communities-in-charge-of-alcohol/alcohol-health-champions/>. The CICA protocol is available at <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-018-5410-0>.



experienced by local CICA co-ordinators has been retaining AHCs as they move on to utilise their new-found skills elsewhere, in training or employment.

INITIAL REFLECTIONS

We are in the process of evaluating the impact CICA has on reducing alcohol harm within the communities where it was rolled out.⁷ We have learnt that CICA is a complex intervention to launch and embed into small communities, and have identified key

DISCLAIMER

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Do recovery outcome measures improve clinical practice? A linguistic analysis of the Hope, Agency and Opportunity (HAO) measure in community mental health teams

Abstract

Aims: Recovery approaches are identified as the overarching framework for improving mental health services for people with severe and enduring conditions. These approaches prioritise living well with long-term conditions, as evidenced by personal recovery outcomes. There is little research demonstrating how to support busy mental health teams work in this way. This study assessed the impact of introducing a brief measure of recovery, the HAO, on the attitudes and behaviours of staff working in community mental health teams, to test whether routine use of such measures facilitates recovery-based practice.

Methods: Linguistic analysis assumes that language is indicative of wider attitudes and behaviours. Anonymised clinical notes recorded by community mental health team clinicians were analysed for recovery and non-recovery language, over 30 months. This covered periods before, during and after the introduction of the recovery measure. We used a single-case design (N=1 community mental health team), and hypothesised that clinicians would use recovery focused language more frequently, and non-recovery focused language less frequently, following the introduction of the measure, and that these changes would be maintained at 18-month follow-up.

Results: Visual inspection of the data indicated that recovery-focused language increased following the introduction of the HAO, though this was not maintained at follow-up. This pattern was not supported by statistical analyses. No clear pattern of change was found for non-recovery focused language.

Conclusion: The introduction of a brief measure of recovery may have influenced staff attitudes and behaviours temporarily. Any longer-term impact is likely to depend on ongoing commitment to the use of the measure, without which staff language, attitudes and behaviours return to previous levels.

Keywords: mental health, recovery, outcome measures, HAO

Introduction

The concept of mental health recovery has evolved over the last two decades^{1,2}. Conventionally, mental health is defined in clinical terms; patient symptomatology is assessed regularly (e.g. low mood, voices) to establish presence of illness, and the decline or absence of symptoms indicates recovery³. More recently, lived experience accounts have shown that people can and do recover meaningful and satisfying lives – personal recovery – in the context of ongoing ill-health^{1,2}.

Mental ill-health is one of the primary causes of health burden worldwide⁴. In the UK, direct and indirect costs amount to 4.5% of the gross domestic product⁵. Developing services that promote personal recovery is therefore a public health priority. A recovery-based practice (RBP) approach is one in which clinical interactions, service systems and overarching governance arrangements are demonstrably focused on supporting individuals to build the lives they wish to lead². This is likely to involve facilitating people's hope, agency (sense of control over their lives) and opportunity for self-determination and social inclusion^{6,7}. Since 2012, RBP has been the basis for National Health Service (NHS) mental health service improvement^{8,9}, in line with best practice guidelines¹⁰⁻¹², and as endorsed by most of the UK professional practice bodies¹³⁻¹⁷. This also depends on commissioners and healthcare providers knowing what service indicators lead to the intended outcomes. Shepherd and colleagues¹⁸ identify quality indicators for supporting recovery at individual (e.g. evidence of shared decision-making) and organisational levels (e.g. using validated recovery outcome measures). These indicators emphasise the nature and quality of staff / service-user relationships, which are deemed effective to the extent that they promote personal recovery.

While there is some evidence that RBP may reduce self-stigma, across community, day service and forensic settings¹⁹⁻²⁶, less research has examined means of facilitating RBP in NHS services and the impact on

outcomes. Training programmes can be effective in improving staff knowledge and attitudes, but may not lead to changes in clinical practice^{27, 28}. For example, a year-long team-based intervention incorporating training and reflective sessions for staff had no overall effect on recovery outcomes compared with treatment as usual²⁸. Importantly, however, post-hoc analyses showed that service-users rated their relationships with staff²⁹ and recovery outcomes²⁸ higher in teams that had participated more fully in the intervention. This suggests that organisational commitment is necessary to implement RBP, and that such changes may first be evident in the relationships between service-users and staff.

Discourse analysts assume that text is one form of social practice that contributes to the constitution of situations, social identities and relationships between people³⁰. By examining language we can extract meaning from text, and examine the relationships between those writing and those being written about. In healthcare settings, linguistic analysis can elucidate the relationships between those providing and those receiving care. The language used in clinical notes can thus be used as a proxy for the attitudes and behaviours of staff toward service-users. For example, medical notes recorded by nurses³¹ and dieticians³² have been analysed to construct representations of patients' and practitioners' reality. In mental healthcare settings, linguistic analysis can be used to examine the extent to which services have moved from a traditional medical model to one that prioritises personal recovery.

The Hope, Agency and Opportunity measure (HAO)³³ was designed by clinicians and people with mental ill-health as a means of focusing clinical discussions on the key principles of recovery, developing relevant and personal care plans, and assessing outcomes. The present study aimed to assess the impact of introducing a brief measure of recovery to be used routinely by staff in a community mental health team, on RBP, calculated by counts of language use in clinical notes before, during and after the introduction of the measure. We hypothesised that clinicians would use recovery focused language more frequently, and non-recovery focused language less

frequently, following the introduction of the measure, and that these changes would be maintained at 18-month follow-up.

Method

Ethical approval was granted by the University of – Research Ethics Committee (ID: 30552).

Participants

The community mental health team is part of an NHS Trust in the South of England. Over the 30-month timescale, the average number of staff was . whole time equivalent, with an average team caseload of 454. These teams provide multidisciplinary care to people with severe and enduring mental ill-health, and typically comprise nurses, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, social workers, healthcare support workers and psychologists. The HAO was introduced to the team over a six-month period. Staff were provided with information about its development, practical guidance on structuring recovery-focused conversations using the HAO, and recommendations on how the measure can be used in care planning.

Design

We used a single-case AB naturalistic design, which consists of two phases – a baseline phase prior to changes made, and an intervention phase. Single-case methods are typically used to investigate an individual's response to an intervention³⁴, but can be used for a cluster of participants³⁵ – here a community mental health team.

Anonymised electronic notes recorded as part of routine clinical care over a 30-month period (March 2013 – August 2015) were examined. The timescale was divided into five, six-month periods. These periods were grouped into two phases: baseline (A) and intervention (B). The baseline phase combined the periods before (T1: 0-6 months) and during the introduction of the HAO (T2: 6-12 months). The intervention phase combined the periods immediately following introduction of the HAO (T3: 12-18 months), and follow-up periods (T4: 18-24 months; and T5: 24-30 months). Frequency of recovery and non-recovery terms were computed using the automated CRIS system, and then calculated as a proportion of the total team caseload over these periods.

Procedure

The Clinical Record Interactive Search system (CRIS)³⁶ de-identifies personal data (e.g. name, address details, date of birth) in electronic clinical notes, which can then be used to search for and count specified terms. This system was used to count recovery and non-recovery terms over the five time periods.

The first author created a total of 32 search terms on the basis of the literature (see table 1). Independent raters ($N=10$) with experience in the field of mental health (post-graduate clinical psychology students; recovery college staff; academics) were recruited to code the terms. Fleiss' kappa, a measure of reliability between raters for categorical variables, indicated very good inter-rater agreement on whether terms were recovery or non-recovery focused, $\kappa=.94$, 95% CI[.889, .992], $p<.001$.

Results

Term frequency counts

Data from 7601 clinical records were included in the analyses. Term frequency counts were recorded over time, as a proportion of the average caseload for the six-month period to account for caseload variation (table 1).

Table 1 about here

Visual analysis

Single-case methodology prioritises visual inspection of data³¹. Comparison of central tendency and points of change can be used to compare phases³¹. Term frequency counts as proportions of caseload were plotted over time, across baseline and intervention phases (figures 1 and 2).

Figures 1 and 2 about here

The average number of recovery terms increased from baseline ($M = 10.64$) to intervention ($M = 11.42$). The average number of non-recovery terms decreased from baseline ($M = 9.38$) to intervention ($M = 9.22$), though this difference was very modest. Comparison of points of change (circled) indicates an increase in use of recovery terms between the baseline and intervention phases, though this was not maintained at follow-up. Points of change for non-recovery terms showed a modest change, which again was not maintained at follow-up.

Statistical analysis

Mood's median nonparametric test can be applied to two or more groups, incorporating Fisher's exact test to compare the relationship of data points to the median³¹. There was no association between median category and phase for recovery ($p=1.00$) or non-recovery terms ($p=.400$).

Discussion

This study assessed the impact of introducing a brief measure of recovery on RBP in a community mental health team. We used linguistic analysis as a proxy for staff attitudes and behaviour, and predicted increased use of recovery focused language, and decreased use of non-recovery focused language, and that these changes would be maintained at 18-month follow-up.

Following minimal baseline variability, the introduction of the HAO may have had an initial impact on use of recovery language, though this was not maintained. Change in non-recovery language was too modest to draw any conclusions. The statistical analyses did not support either hypothesis.

Given the personal and societal costs of mental ill-health^{4,5}, and broad agreement that healthcare improvement depends on RBP^{8,9}, means of facilitating service-level change are urgently needed¹⁸. Linguistic analysis used to examine staff attitudes and behaviours toward service-users, is well suited to the assessment of RBP, which prioritises staff / service-user relationships and the promotion of personal recovery.

The study is primarily limited by the assumption that introduction of the HAO resulted in ongoing use of the measure. Anecdotal feedback from the community mental health team suggested that following an initial increase in use of the HAO, this then tailed off as other service demands took precedence. In this context, it is likely

that the introduction of a brief measure of recovery had a temporary impact, but that the use of the measure and thus broader impact on RBP was not maintained over time. This might be addressed by comparing teams who have been able to maintain use of recovery measures, with others who have not. Such differences between teams are likely to depend on managerial commitment to routine implementation of recovery measures, in the context of the many other competing pressures and demands on community mental health teams. The results are perhaps unsurprising considering that an intensive team-based intervention also resulted in no effect on recovery outcomes unless teams participated fully²⁸. The modest literature focusing on facilitating and evaluating RBP suggests that organisational prioritisation of key performance indicators, such as the use of recovery measures¹⁸, is necessary to effect change.

The lack of any evidence of an inverse relationship between recovery and non-recovery terms is interesting, and suggests that improvement in recovery language cannot be assumed to indicate a corresponding reduction in non-recovery language. This may have implications for education of staff; recovery training typically emphasises the advantages of RBP, but it may also be necessary to emphasise the disadvantages of non-RBP.

Conclusions

This is the first study to examine the impact of introducing a recovery measure in routine NHS settings over a substantial time period (30-months). The results suggest that this may have had an impact on RBP in the short-term, but that recovery language, as a reflection of the wider culture of mental health teams, reverts to baseline levels over time. Any enduring effect may depend on persistent managerial and structural support – no mean feat given the current pressures on community mental health teams.

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<i>Non-recovery-focused term frequency counts</i>						<i>Recovery-focused term frequency counts</i>					
Term	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	Term	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Ill*	1882	1728	1748	1344	1832	Engage*	1784	1610	1861	1202	1476
Unable	1014	1109	1163	903	875	Inclu*	681	599	799	592	614
Symptom*	826	688	795	764	642	Cop*	633	571	805	502	606
Limit*	243	235	294	193	214	Recovery	586	564	682	529	514
Demand*	162	193	150	154	108	Hope	421	418	603	428	494
Depend*	147	132	158	120	132	Goals	272	247	346	191	200
Resist*	88	107	92	55	48	Opportunit*	190	210	260	212	264
Hopeless	39	47	79	45	69	WRAP	147	290	213	103	217
Disengage*	43	41	39	40	26	Choice	148	112	134	130	149
Unmotivated	17	21	13	13	6	Value	95	87	150	45	111
Maladaptive	8	5	5	10	32	Agency	54	63	150	64	65
Unmanage*	6	10	10	10	5	Wellness	69	71	92	36	54
Manipulat*	7	7	4	7	8	Collaborat*	32	13	43	25	21
Attention seeking	1	1	0	1	0	Strengths	11	11	22	20	20
Disempowered	0	0	1	1	0	Resilien*	5	5	22	13	16
Non-complian*	0	0	0	0	0	Self-management	4	1	0	6	1

Table 1. Frequency counts for recovery and non-recovery terms

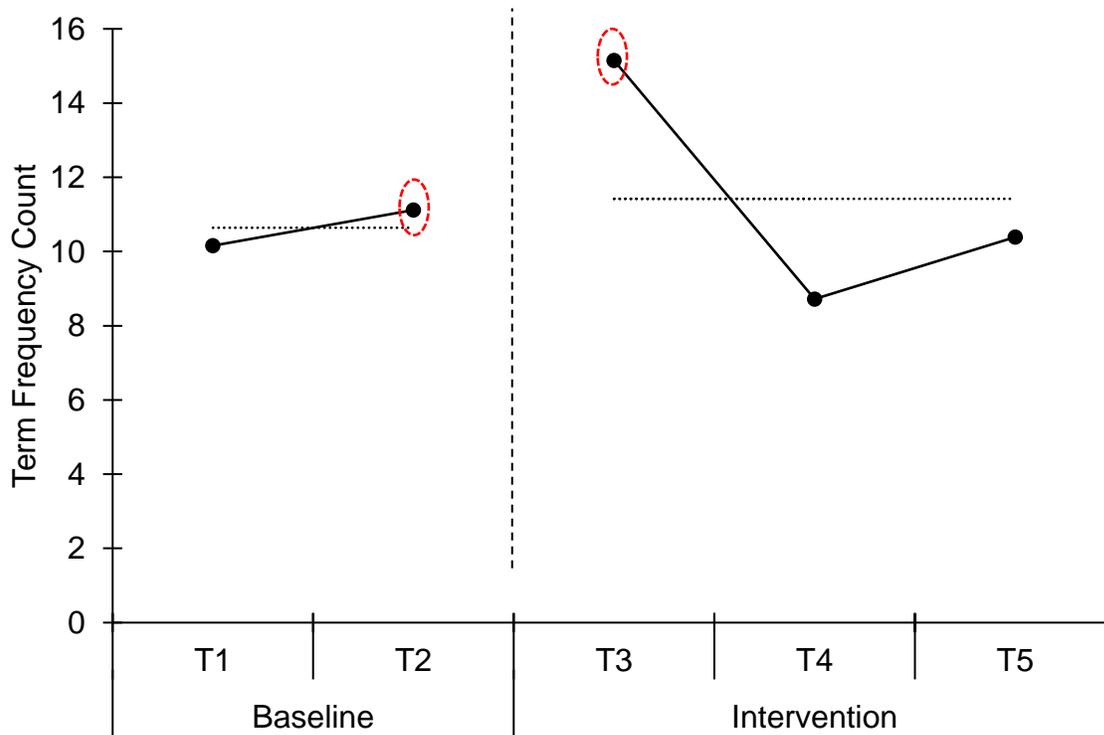


Figure 1. Recovery term frequency counts as a proportion of caseload. Horizontal dotted lines represent average frequency count for the phase. Dashed circles represent change points.

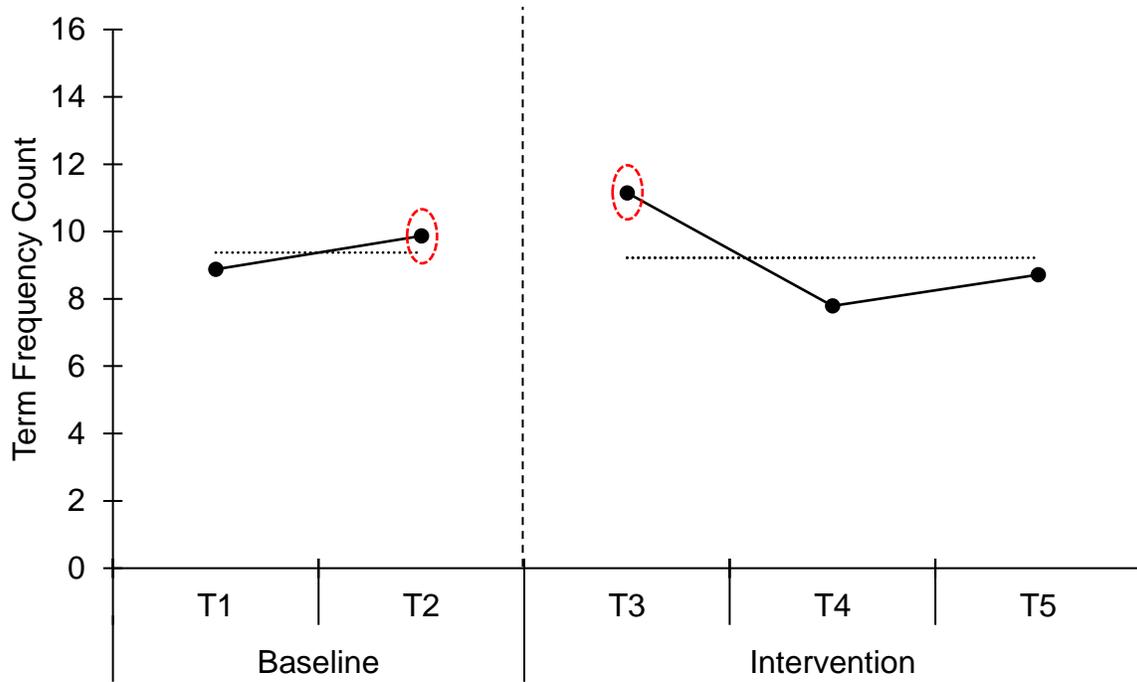


Figure 2. Non-recovery term frequency counts as a proportion of caseload. Horizontal dotted lines represent average frequency count for the phase. Dashed circles represent change points.

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