



Factors Associated with Short Psychiatric Hospitalization Length of Stay After Transfer from Medical Hospital



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BACKGROUND

- Consult-liaison (CL) psychiatrists serve as the gatekeepers for psychiatric admission from the general hospital.
- In our 2023 retrospective chart review, we analyzed factors associated with psychiatric length of stay (PHLOS) after transfer from a medical hospital to measure validity.
- We found that diagnoses of affective, anxiety, and personality disorders were associated with shorter PHLOS, suggesting that these admissions may be of lower utility and diversion may be appropriate in certain cases.
- We now turn our sights onto PHLOS less than 48 hours after transfer from the medical hospital to further expand on our work.

METHODS

- Retrospective chart review of all recorded transfers from our institution's tertiary care academic medical hospital to the psychiatric hospital from 2021-2023
- Information collected: age, identified race and gender, psychiatric diagnosis, reason for psychiatric admission, presence of involuntary psychiatric admission, PHLOS, length of stay at medical hospital, presence of substance use disorder, presence of outpatient psychiatric treatment, and lead time between suicidal ideation and suicide attempt if present.
- Group of patients with psychiatric hospital length of stay of less than 48 hours was compared with a randomized subset of those with psychiatric hospital length of stay of longer than 48 hours using t-tests for continuous variables and Chi-squared test for categorical variables.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	LOS less than 48 hours	LOS more than 48 hours	P value
Age	46	49	0.364877
% White (n)	90 (35)	81 (30)	0.414562
% Black (n)	10 (4)	16 (6)	
% Identified F (n)	54 (21)	57 (21)	0.673228

GROUP COMPARISONS

	LOS less than 48 hours	LOS more than 48 hours	P value
% Involuntary (n)	64 (25)	57 (21)	0.512566
Average length of stay at medical hospital (days)	4.9	5.7	0.421111
% Presence of substance use disorder (n)	46 (18)	38 (14)	0.462993
% Suicide attempt (n)	38 (15)	53 (20)	0.172849
% psych meds (n)	69 (27)	68 (25)	0.876103
% psychiatrist (n)	46 (18)	43 (16)	0.881894
% therapist (n)	23 (9)	22 (8)	0.719135
% ICU admission (n)	26 (10)	22 (8)	0.558021

RESULTS

- 40 patients were identified that had a PHLOS of less than 48 hours after transfer from our academic medical center.
- 1162 patients were identified that had a PHLOS of more than 48 hours.
- A randomized subset of 37 of these 1162 patients were chosen to participate in data collection.
- Average PHLOS of the former group was 1.2 days while average PHLOS of the latter group was 18.5 days.
- Lead time (hr.) between suicidal ideation and suicide attempt was significantly shorter in PHLOS less than 48 hours as compared to PHLOS of more than 48 hours.
- There was no statistical difference between the groups in the other variables analyzed.

SUICIDE ATTEMPTS COMPARISONS

	LOS less than 48 hours	LOS more than 48 hours	P value
% violent	27 (4)	20 (4)	0.642067
Lead time (hr.)	4.8	81	0.037024

CONCLUSIONS

- We have shown that shorter time between suicidal ideation and attempt is associated with psychiatric hospitalization stays less than 48 hours after medical hospitalization.
- This finding brings into question the utility of psychiatric hospitalizations for impulsive suicide attempts after medical stabilization.

REFERENCES

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