

Raising the Profile of SW IN ED

A Practitioner's Perspective

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Why bother??

- What do we do that benefits the department and/ or the hospital?



Why bother??

- Provide comprehensive psychosocial history for complicated patients
- Address psychosocial factors which may prevent admission for patients with minor injuries or illness
- Prevent admissions (Bywaters & McLeod, 1993)
- Prevent re- presentations (Bywaters & McLeod, 1993)



Why bother??

- Address safety for vulnerable clients which could prevent further physical or psychological injury and secondarily readmission (Lewis et al, 1994, Shumway et al, 2004)
- redirect patients to services outwith tertiary facilities
- Address families' emotional needs which frees medical and nursing time to address needs of the patient (Van Pelt, 2010)



Why bother??

- Early identification of patients likely to require complex discharge planning to mobilise allied health input at the earliest possible stage (Bywaters & McLeod, 1993)
- Better perceived experience of communication with the hospital and clearer understanding of information received by patients and families (Bywaters & McLeod, 1993)
- Better psychological outcomes for patients in distress



Raising Awareness of The Evidence

- You must be able to articulate the reasons why it is worthwhile for medical and nursing to make the referral when in the short term it may seem like it is delaying D/C
- Be familiar with the evidence that supports your position. What is the clinical justification?



Raising Awareness of The Evidence

In- Services:

- Demonstrate your expertise
- Highlight your effectiveness, giving evidence of the ways in which SW input is beneficial
- Improve their own interventions with the relevant client group



In-services offered by SW in Liverpool ED

- Acute distress following trauma/
Psychological First Aid
- Domestic Violence
- Emotional Considerations for bleeding in
pregnancy
- Victims of crime
- Orientation of all new medical and
nursing staff



Research

- To demonstrate your effectiveness
- Demonstrate your expertise



Networking with External Agencies

- Build partnerships with key agencies
- Memorandums of understanding with relevant agencies
- Use the expertise of community agencies
- Joint education and training efforts



Make Yourself Visible

- Attend department meetings and put the SW agenda on the ward agenda
- Ward Rounds
- Trauma calls
- Be physically visible on the ward
- Find out what your department would find helpful

