

Aims/Objectives:

- To audit, assess and improve the quality of Tallaght University Hospital Psychiatry inpatient discharge summaries sent to GPs/Referral agencies
- To uphold professional standards as set out by the Mental Health Commission (MHC) in relation to discharge summaries
- To Provide GPs with user-friendly and salient information that will improve handover of clinical information post-discharge
- To ensure that discharge summaries are completed and sent within the 3-day timeframe as set out by the MHC
- To assess if discharge summaries are compliant with best practice guidelines, and to what degree
- To communicate result findings to Sector Psychiatry Teams service-wide
- Based on results and feedback from stakeholders; implement changes
- Re-audit following feedback of results (on a monthly basis for a three month period)

Methods:

1. Comparison Standard:

Following review of 38.4 (Part 5: Discharge Process) of the MHC Code of Practice 2009 and following consultation with stakeholders, it was agreed that the following sections would be recommended for inclusion in a new template discharge summary:

- Diagnosis
- Medications (Admission/Discharge)
- Course of Admission
- Health/Social Issues
- Risk/Relapse
- Prognosis
- Follow-up
- Keyworker/Contacts
- Timeframe (evidence that summary was sent within 3 working days).



2. Planning and Standard/Criteria Selection:

MHC requirements regarding discharge summaries were reviewed and targets set for compliance. It was agreed that summaries from all five psychiatric sectors across TUH would be randomly reviewed and results communicated to all teams along with proposed discharge template guidelines.

3. Data Collection:

Two discharge summaries per sector were picked at random utilizing the hospital's electronic discharge summary database on a monthly basis from September until November 2020.

4. Measuring Performance:

It was documented whether or not each heading/section from comparison standard numbers 1-9 were completed in each discharge summary. A score for each sector was then given out of 18 and a percentage was formed.

5. Making Improvements:

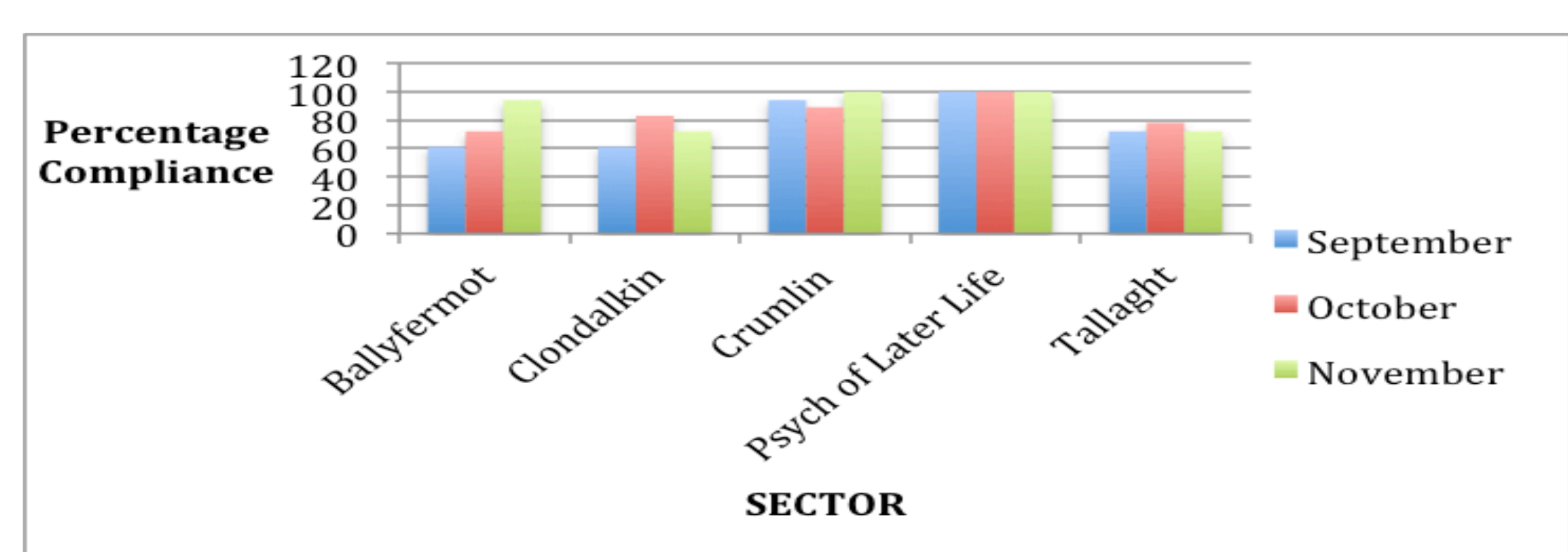
Change was implemented through continuous feedback (results and recommendations via monthly service-wide emails to all teams). A reminder of each of the sections to be included was also printed, laminated and attached to Registrar's hospital desktops and notice board.

6. Sustaining Improvements:

Each month, and following service-wide feedback, a re-audit was carried out in the same way to monitor progress.

Results:

Sector	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	Total Difference between Sept and Nov	%
Ballyfermot	11/18 (61%)	13/18 (72%)	17/18 (94%)	Plus 33%	
Clondalkin	11/18 (61%)	15/18 (83%)	13/18 (72%)	Plus 11%	
Crumlin	17/18 (94%)	16/18 (89%)	18/18 (100%)	Plus 6%	
Psych of Later Life	18/18 (100%)	18/18 (100%)	9/9 (100%)	Full Compliance	
Tallaght	13/18 (72%)	14/18 (78%)	13/18 (72%)	No change	



- Compliance in the Ballyfermot Sector increased 33% overall; 61% in September, 72% in October and 94% in November.
- Clondalkin Sector compliance improved 11% overall; 61% in September, 83% in October and 72% in November.
- Crumlin Sector compliance improved 6% overall; 94% in September, 89% in October and 100% in November.
- Psychiatry of Later Life remained fully compliant each month.
- Tallaght Sector was largely unchanged overall; 72% in September, 79% in October and 72% in November.

Conclusions

- Through consultation, review and feedback, a new template was quickly created for TUH electronic Psychiatry discharge summaries with excellent compliance evidenced across Sectors following re-audit.
- It is envisaged that these changes will result in greater collaboration between Psychiatry Services, GP's and Referral Agencies to promote continuity of care in the community.

Suggestions for Future Practice:

- Continued collaboration with Primary Care to promote improved handover of information and enhanced continuity of care.
- Audit to be continued monthly at TUH and education to be provided at induction to ensure continued compliance.
- Audit template to be incorporated into new electronic discharge summary (in collaboration with the IT Department at TUH). This will ensure that MHC and clinical requirements will be automatically included before Registrars have the ability to save, finish and print discharge summaries. This will then be forwarded to GPs and Referral Agencies.