

# ADHERENCE WITH HSE GUIDELINES FOR SMOKING CESSATION IN MENTAL HEALTH DURING HOSPITAL ADMISSION

## Author

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## Background

The local hospital psychiatric admission form had a specific section for identifying patients who smoke, and for identifying patients who wish to engage with the hospital's smoking cessation service. This section is in line with the Health Service Executive's 2016 "Smoking Cessation and Mental Health" guidelines, which recommends identifying and referring patients who smoke and are willing to reduce or quit to smoking cessation services at admission to hospital.

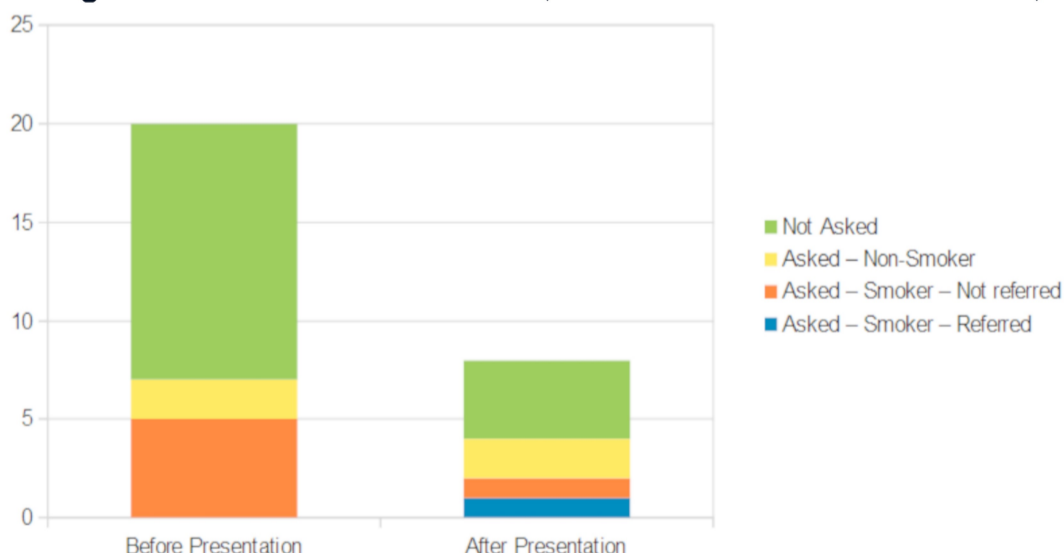
## Aims:

To monitor adherence to specific components of smoking cessation guidelines by non-consultant hospital doctors on hospital admission. To monitor rates of referral if identified. To increase compliance with said smoking cessation guidelines

## Methods

Audit of compliance to the Health Service Executive's guidelines on smoking cessation in mental health; intervention by presentation to non-consultant hospital doctors in psychiatry, and re-audit was conducted thereafter. A customised audit tool was used, identifying if smoking status was enquired about, if the patient was offered a referral to smoking cessation, and if the referral was accepted by the patient. Audit involved auditing inpatient charts post-admission.

Figure 1: Full results of audit (before and after intervention)



## Initial Results:

Twenty inpatient charts were audited. Seven patients were asked about smoking status on admission, with five potential candidates identified from same, but no referrals made

## Re-Audit Results:

Eight inpatient charts were audited. Four out of eight patients were asked about smoking status on admission; two potential candidates were identified, and one referral was made.

Figure 2: Patients asked about smoking status pre-presentation

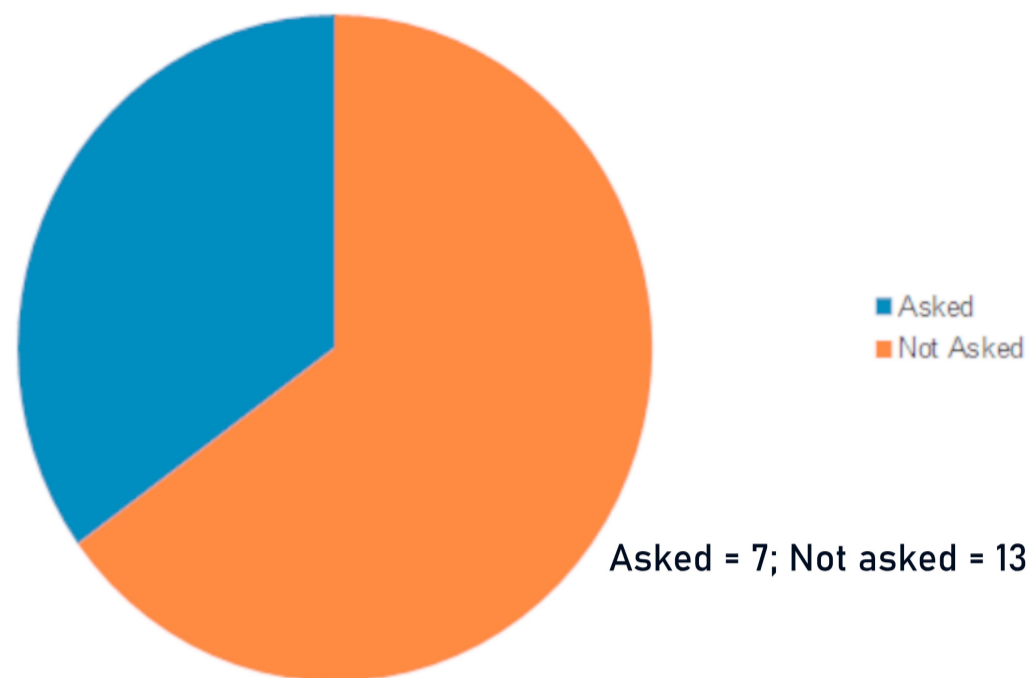
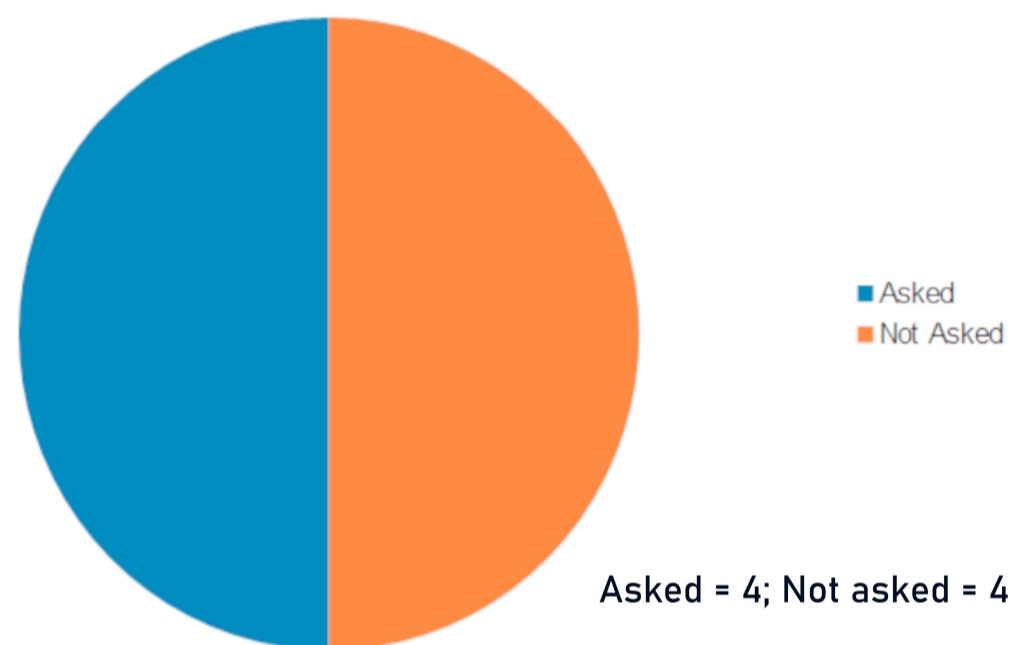


Figure 3: Patients asked about smoking status post-presentation



## Conclusions

Briefing non-consultant hospital doctors on rationale for smoking cessation identification could improve identification and referral to smoking cessation service, but further measures are likely required to improve same. A yearly audit and briefing of rationale for smoking cessation to non-consultant hospital doctors admitting patients to psychiatric wards, with an additional intervention, may be required to improve adherence to the Health Service Executive's guidelines on smoking cessation in mental health.

## References:

1. Health Service Executive. Smoking Cessation and Mental Health [Internet]. Dublin: Health Service Executive; 2016[updated 2016; cited 2020 March 5th]. Available from: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/tobaccocontrol/smoking-cessation-and-mental-health-briefing-document.pdf>

## Declarations:

Permission for audit granted by Dr Cathryn Rogers, Clinical Director, Elm Mount Unit, St Vincent's University Hospital.