

RTI #3273

Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) Procedures in Queensland Hospitals

Overview

ECT is an evidence based treatment for severe depressive illness, acute mania, catatonia and schizophrenia; and as a long term maintenance treatment for the same indications. It is an available treatment option at many specialist mental health facilities in Australia.

Modern ECT is considered to be an effective and safe treatment option. ECT is a regulated treatment under the *Mental Health Act 2000* (MHA) and may only be performed in a facility which has been authorised by the Director of Mental Health. It is an offence to perform ECT other than in accordance with legislative and clinical requirements under the MHA.

During 2013/14 and 2014/15, the number of admissions which involved for ECT treatment comprised only a small portion of the over 2 million annual admissions to Queensland hospitals.

Data source

Information has been extracted from the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC), which is a central source, based on information supplied by individual hospitals.

Definitions

Admission / Episode of Care – is an episode of care which refers to a particular phase of treatment (reflected by the care type). There may be more than one episode of care within the one hospital stay period. An episode of care ends when the principal clinical intent of care (i.e. the care type) changes, or when the patient is formally separated from the hospital.

Distinct Patients – this relates to the number of individual patients admitted to the same hospital within the relevant period.

Total Number of Treatments – this relates to the total ECT treatments provided within the relevant period.

Data Extracted

Time period1: 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

Time period 2: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Admitted patient episodes of care, patients and total number of treatments for Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) procedures, Public and private hospitals, Queensland

| ECT procedures ³ | Urgency of admission as | | | Urgency of admission as | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Total | Emergency ⁷ | Involuntary legal status ⁸ | Total | Emergency ⁷ | Involuntary legal status ⁸ |
| | 2013/2014 | | | 2014/2015 | | |
| Episodes of Care | | | | | | |
| Age groups | | | | | | |
| 10-15 years | 15 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 16-17 years | 34 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 3 | 3 |
| 18-65 years | 5,402 | 517 | 729 | 5,931 | 577 | 902 |
| 66-80 years | 1,390 | 92 | 271 | 1,416 | 141 | 274 |
| 81 years or more | 379 | 42 | 95 | 314 | 51 | 84 |
| Total Episodes - all ages | 7,220 | 653 | 1,098 | 7,698 | 773 | 1,265 |
| Distinct patients⁴ | | | | | | |
| Age groups | | | | | | |
| 10-15 years | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 16-17 years | 5 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| 18-65 years | 1,081 | 401 | 332 | 1,207 | 437 | 370 |
| 66-80 years | 211 | 66 | 67 | 261 | 108 | 88 |
| 81 years or more | 68 | 31 | 23 | 74 | 33 | 29 |
| Total distinct patients - all ages ⁵ | 1,354 | 499 | 422 | 1,543 | 582 | 491 |
| Total Number of treatments⁶ | | | | | | |
| Age groups | | | | | | |
| 10-15 years | 40 | 9 | 27 | 23 | 14 | 16 |
| 16-17 years | 79 | 10 | 10 | 71 | 24 | 24 |
| 18-65 years | 13,070 | 3,214 | 2,839 | 15,126 | 3,516 | 3,567 |
| 66-80 years | 2,655 | 550 | 570 | 3,281 | 910 | 892 |
| 81 years or more | 758 | 234 | 205 | 864 | 316 | 267 |
| Total number of treatments - all ages | 16,602 | 4,017 | 3,651 | 19,365 | 4,780 | 4,766 |

Notes:

1. Includes public acute, public psychiatric and private acute hospitals.
2. Excludes posthumous organ procurement and boarders.
3. ECT procedures identified as ICD-10-AM block code 1907 - Electroconvulsive therapy.
4. Number of patients are only distinct within the same hospital and age groups.
5. Individual age groups cannot be cumulated to form a total 'all ages' as a change in age group category during the period will result in multiple counting.
6. Total number of treatments are based on episodes of care multiplied by number of treatments per episode.
7. Urgency of admission - Emergency: An emergency admission is an admission of a patient for care or treatment which, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and which should occur within 24 hours.
Episodes with emergency admission indicator and undergoing ECT procedures have a designated psychiatric ward stay at some stage during the hospital stay, and of these approximately 95% have a principal diagnosis of a mental health disorder.
8. Involuntary legal status - Provides an indication that a person was treated on an involuntary basis under the relevant state mental health legislation, at some point during the hospital stay. Involuntary patients are persons who are detained under mental health legislation for the purpose of assessment or provision of appropriate treatment or care.

Source: Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC),

Statistical Services Branch, Department of Health, Queensland

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