



Welcome to the latest edition of the PRISMATIC newsletter

This is the third newsletter from the PRISMATIC research study led by Swansea University. In this issue we have an update on the GP practices taking part; details of the upcoming research activities and the latest perspective from one of the study team members, local GP Deborah Burge-Jones.

What is PRISMATIC?

32 GP practices have committed to the PRISMATIC study within the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board area (ABM UHB). The first practices will begin using the Prism tool this November, helping them to identify patients at risk of an emergency admission to hospital, and supporting efforts to reduce their risk.

The PRISMATIC trial will examine the impact of the Prism tool on staff, patients and resources. This will be the first major study of risk prediction tools in Wales and will provide valuable evidence about the future use of Prism and risk prediction tools more widely.

PRISMATIC GP practices

Prism will be distributed to 32 practices within 11 GP clusters. Each month, beginning this November, one new cluster (selected at random) will have access to the Prism tool, so that within a year all 32 practices have access. The clusters are based on existing groups of practices within community networks, which strive to improve community care through partnership working. The 11 clusters are listed below (alphabetical order) and the map overleaf shows the practice distribution. Afan A will be the first Prism recipients this November.



For previous newsletters and further information about the trial, visit our website www.trustresearch.org.uk/prismatic

Focus Groups and patient questionnaires

During October and November we are holding focus groups with staff from participating practices and with community health professionals. Groups will be held in the Neath, Bridgend and Swansea areas (with further details provided directly to invitees). The groups will provide important baseline perspectives from those staff who will be involved with the Prism study.

During the study patients within the ABM UHB area will receive questionnaires about their care. The first questionnaires, to collect baseline information, will be distributed this Autumn to 2,000 people, with further questionnaires (after Prism is introduced), allowing comparisons to be made.

Clusters (number of practices in cluster that are participating)	Area
Afan A (3)	Port Talbot
Afan B (3)	Maesteg
Bayhealth (2)	SW Swansea
Bridgend East (3)	Bridgend East
Bridgend North (4)	Bridgend North
Cwmtawe (2)	East Swansea
Llwchwr (2)	NW Swansea
Neath Part A (4)	Briton Ferry/Skewen
Neath Part B (4)	Neath
Penderi/Cityhealth (3)	Central Swansea
Upper Valleys (3)	North NPT

PRISMATIC Trial Newsletter Autumn 2012



“Predictive modeling tools show good projecting ability in identifying high risk patients in a general population... Research is needed to evaluate the full impact of predictive modeling tools on service utilization”.

NHS Evidence Adoption Centre
(East of England), 2011

View from study team member Deborah Burge-Jones, GP (Briton Ferry)

Prism will support efforts to prevent admissions for patients identified by the tool as being at high risk of hospitalisation. In support, Sarah Smallcombe (GP, Fairfield Surgery) and I are developing guidance for practice staff and have been working with health and social care service providers and planners to see how our use of Prism can be integrated. This work has been as much about how Prism can help them as how they can help practices and it is very uplifting to see the enthusiasm of people involved.

Although the majority of practices will only have access to current intermediate care services as required, I feel very hopeful that over time Prism will help mould new multidisciplinary services – and indeed this is already being seen in the Neath network where a virtual ward model is being explored.

A large amount of care we provide as GPs is reactive, after patients have run into problems, but the opportunity to use Prism, alongside existing data and our own insights, to proactively address people’s needs before their health deteriorates is welcome. I look forward to using Prism in my practice and I believe the tool will be a worthwhile addition, but to truly understand the tool’s effectiveness, it is important that participating practices continue to support the research study.

SAIL grows in ABM UHB

Local practices are leading the way in their commitment to the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank. Over 70 ABM UHB practices are supplying anonymous data to the Swansea University system (including all PRISMATIC practices) allowing linkage with hospital, NHS Direct, ambulance and educational data. This growing databank represents a valuable resource for health-related research and service development, whilst complying with the requirements of data protection legislation and confidentiality guidelines.

Do you have suggestions for future newsletters or want more information?

Email us at
prismatic@swansea.ac.uk