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DISCHARGE DESTINATION OF PATIENTS FROM A PSYCHOGERIATRIC UNIT

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Objectives: To determine the discharge destination of patients admitted to a psychogeriatric unit.

Methods: Records of all patients discharged from an in-patient psychogeriatric unit between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010 were examined. The diagnosis, residence at admission, length of stay and discharge destination were recorded.

Results: There were ninety-four discharges over the study period. Four of the patients were admitted and discharged twice. The mean age was 76.7years (range 65-95years). 52.1% (n=49) were diagnosed with dementia and 47.9% (n=45) with functional mental illness. The average length of stay was 67.4days for dementia compare to 74.2days for functional mental illness. 17.1% (n=6/32) of patients with dementia and 84.2% (n=32/38) of patients with functional mental illness resident at home at the time of admission were discharged home.

Conclusion: This finding suggests that patients with functional mental illness are more likely to be discharge back to their homes compared with patients with dementia.