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How Much Time and Resources Are Spent Trying to Maintain Computerised Electronic Patient Records in Liaison Psychiatry.

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Health in the UK wants the National Health Service to make £20 Billion worth of efficiency savings by 2015 to reinvest.

In the UK the General Hospitals use paper records which are then scanned to create electronic records while Psychiatric Hospitals require that information to be typed on to their electronic records and these electronic records are not available to each other.

Therefore liaison psychiatry assessments require a written entry to be made in the Medical notes and a second entry typed on to the psychiatric electronic patient record which requires a full psychiatric history.

OBJECTIVE

This duplication in typing information was consuming a considerable amount of this Teams time and resources which could have instead been spent with patients.

AIM

To identify how much time is spent by Staff typing information on to the psychiatric electronic patient records.

METHODS

We electronically checked for the preceding three months the amount of time spent typing information on to the electronic records after every liaison psychiatry assessment.

We were then able to obtain the average for every week.

RESULT

On average about 36 to 40 hours were spent every week typing information on to the electronic records.

CONCLUSION

Liaison Psychiatry should dispense with the requirement for information to be duplicated on to the electronic patient records and should instead scan the written entry made in the Medical notes.

This should lead to a saving of about £50,000, enough to employ an additional member of Staff every week.