

Improving the Management of Patients with Severe Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) in Victorian Hospitals

Impact of Dementia and BPSD in Victorian Hospitals

#3 in a series of 10 project summaries

Context

The rate of dementia rises quickly with age. Given Australia's ageing population, the number of older people diagnosed with dementia is a significant and growing issue for health and aged care services. In response to concerns regarding the capacity of Victorian health services to provide best care for older people with dementia who present to the emergency department (ED) and/or are admitted to hospital, the Victorian Department of Health (DH) commissioned the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) to undertake a comprehensive review of the extent, impact and current management of this patient population. Of particular interest were patients who demonstrate behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD), a range of neuropsychiatric disturbances common among people with dementia, which are often initiated and/or exacerbated by the hospital environment.

Project Activities

This component of the larger project aimed to explore the extent and impact of dementia and severe BPSD on incidents, adverse events and outcomes in Victorian hospitals.

1. Real-time Medical Record Review



Real-time review of inpatient medical records within 5 self-selected ward types (general medicine; acute geriatric mental health, sub-acute general; sub-acute dementia) in 9 Victorian health services:

- 437 current hospital inpatients
- 170 primary diagnoses on admission
- 20 clinical units involved in care

2. Retrospective Medical Record Audit



Retrospective medical record audit of patients aged 50+ years with an assigned dementia clinical code who had been discharged following an inpatient admission at 9 Victorian health services:

- 274 discharged hospital inpatients
- 84 primary diagnoses on admission
- 15 clinical units involved in care

Key Findings



Violence and/or physical aggression was recorded in 33% of inpatients with coded dementia in the medical record audit - 96% of these behaviours were directed towards staff, 51% towards the environment, 13% towards other patients and/or 4% towards visitors



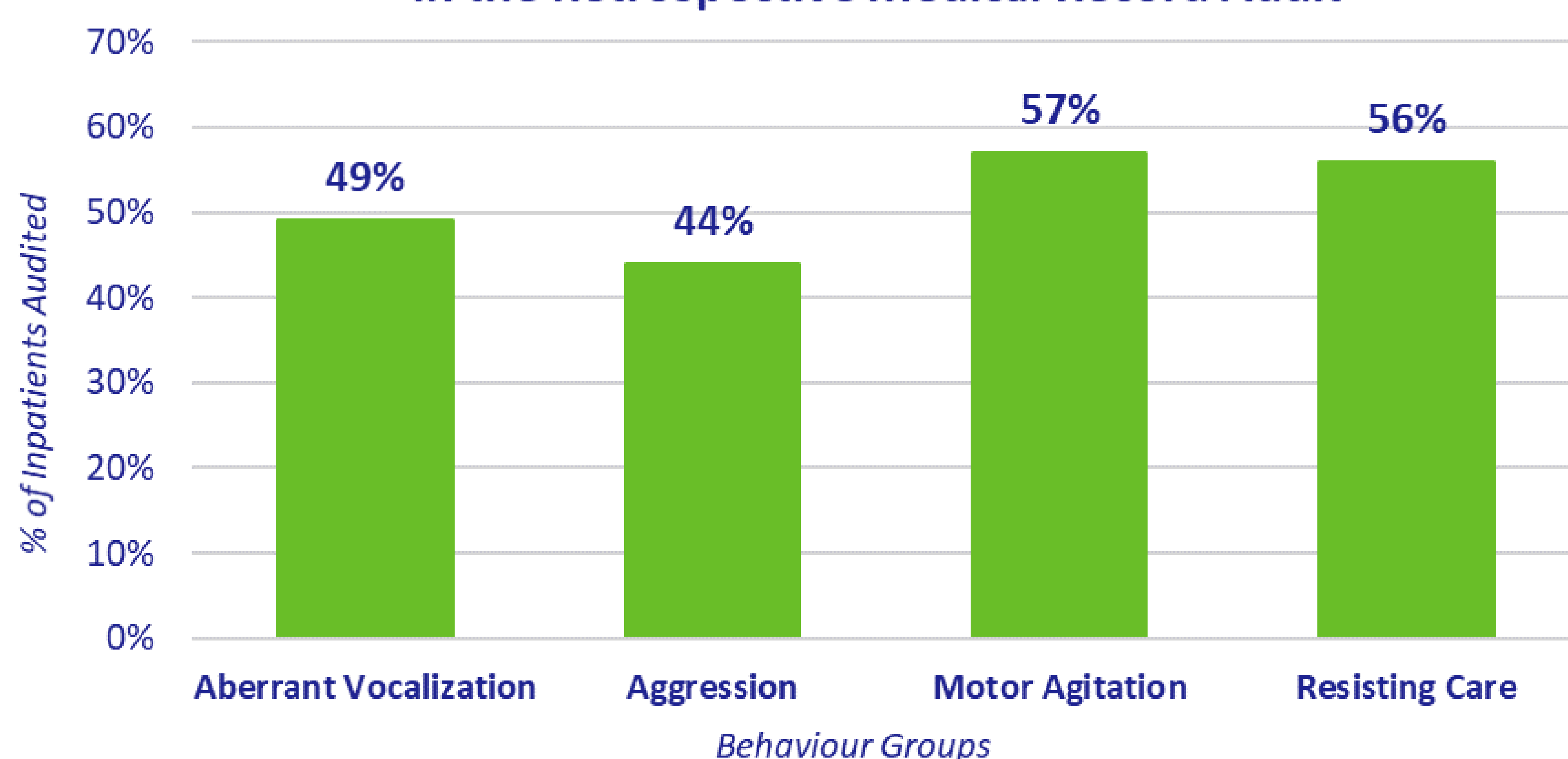
Code grey emergency responses were called due to threatening and/or aggressive behaviour/s in 28% of inpatients with coded dementia in the medical record audit - 10+ code greys were called in 2% of inpatients overall

Estimated BPSD Severity in inpatients with coded dementia in the medical record audit, as per the Brodaty Seven-Tiered Model of Management of BPSD:

- Tier 7 (extreme) - 5.5%
- Tier 6 (very severe) - 9.5%
- Tier 5 (severe) - 11.3%
- Tier 4 (moderate) - 18.2%
- Tier 3 (mild) - 28.8%
- Tier 2 (no BPSD) - 26.6%
- Tier 1 (no dementia) - 0%



Behaviours Recorded in Inpatients with Coded Dementia in the Retrospective Medical Record Audit



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Major Collaborations:



Publication Date: 2024