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columns

the college

Rethinking risk to others in mental health services: final report of a scoping group

College Report CR 150, June 2008, £10, 49 pp.

This report focuses on risks posed to others and aims to stimulate further debate and research, as well as improvements in clinical practice and patient and public safety. It sets out current understanding of best practice and points to future action needed for further improvements.

The assessment and management of risk are integral to psychiatric practice. Over the last 10 years, the risk posed by mental health service users to others has been brought into the spotlight by the government and media as inquiries into serious incidents have suggested failings in the risk management of some patients with mental disorders.

All psychiatrists are conscious of the immeasurable impact of homicides and violence on victims, perpetrators and families, and recognise their responsibility to their patients and the wider public to use their professional skills to reduce risk.

The report describes key findings from a major survey of College members, and makes recommendations to improve the assessment and management of risk.

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Psychological therapies in psychiatry and primary care

College Report CR 151, June 2008, £10, 45 pp.

The aim of this report is to improve the provision of psychological therapies to people with mental and physical disorders in both primary and secondary care settings. It provides information and guidance about psychological therapies that should be useful to psychiatrists, general practitioners, employers and commissioners of services.

The report identifies key themes and principles, alongside ways to develop and maintain psychological services that meet satisfactory standards. It also sets out a number of benchmarks, with assessments of how well-recommended aims and standards are being accomplished. It provides advice for commissioners of the service.

In all settings, psychological therapies should be delivered by a workforce that is psychologically minded and trained in an appropriate range of psychological therapies. Key implications are set out for future medical training. The report may also assist those contemplating careers in general practice, or in psychiatry (which used to be known as 'psychological medicine') in weighing up the opportunities available for the holistic care of people with physical short- and long-term conditions as well as mental illness.

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Postgraduate training in psychiatry: essential information for trainees and trainers

Occasional Paper OP65, July 2008, £10, 56 pp.

This guide provides an overview of postgraduate training in psychiatry. It outlines the process of training for psychiatric trainees and so helps them meet the requirements of the curriculum. It will also be of help to those involved in training at all levels – educational supervisors, tutors, training programme directors, and heads of school. The guide is not intended to cover every detail and aspect of training, but it sets out standards across all psychiatric training. The standards have been developed from existing College guidance, including the *Basic Specialist Training Handbook* (2003) and the *Higher Specialist Training Handbook* (1998), as well as the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board's *Generic Standards for Training* (2006) and contemporary literature on postgraduate medical education. Further useful information can be found on the College website: www.rcpsych.ac.uk/training.aspx.

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