

# **RISK FACTORS RELATED TO MIXING THE MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE USERS WITH THAT OF FORENSIC OBSERVATION REFERRALS, SOUTH AFRICA**

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Aim**

To review literature with regard to the risk factors related to the mixing management of mental health care users with that of forensic observations referrals at a mental health establishment in South Africa. Mixing the different categories of MHCUs and forensic observation in the same unit undermines the rights of both the MHCUs and forensic observations.

### **Method**

The method used included the electronic searches of literature related to the risk of mixing the management of general mental health care users, state patients and forensic observations in a mental health unit. Published articles used to identify solutions to address the risks, impact and outcomes of such management.

### **Results**

Resources and poor infrastructure in mental health raises a concern about the quality of care and observations done in such unit where they are mixing different types of users, which in turn undermines the rights of MHCUs to be cared, treated, and rehabilitated in a safe environment.

### **Discussion**

There are clinical risks involved when different categories of mental health care users and forensic observations are mixed in the same unit, hence it is of great important for the government to intervene through funds allocation to mental health establishments.

Key words: Mental Health Care Users, Forensic observations, Management