

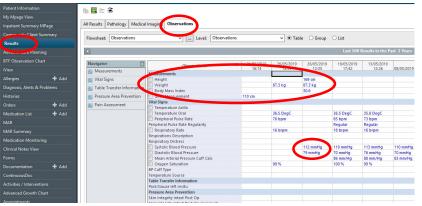
June 2019 Metabolic 'Screen and Intervene' – Simple Steps for JMOs to Improve Practice

Why is metabolic monitoring important for our inpatients?

Mental health patients are at an increased risk of developing metabolic syndrome by virtue of both the high-risk medications commonly prescribed and the at-risk lifestyles many experience. Results from an audit conducted earlier this year indicate we are currently not meeting minimum standards as outlined by NSW Health, RANZCP and HETI. On a positive note, achieving the minimum standards is not difficult and provides a powerful way to improve the quality of life for our patients. This guide outlines 5 simple steps that if followed will allow us to easily achieve minimum standards and potentially improve the metabolic health and life expectancy of our patients.

1. Physical Examination: Obesity and hypertension are important markers for metabolic syndrome.

 Check EMR results 'observations' tab (Figure opposite). Ensure BMI, waist circumference and blood pressure are recorded for all inpatients in the first week of admission and then weekly for all high-risk patients (i.e., those on second generation antipsychotics or those with already documented metabolic syndrome.)



2. Fasting Metabolic Bloodwork: Important and easy to organise across both sites.

- Most patients will have some form of bloodwork done during admission and serum is kept in the laboratory for 7 days. Pathology 'add-ons' are easy to request during this time.
- The phlebotomy service is easy to organise every weekday via an EMR request (if add-ons are not possible).
- As a minimum, the bloodwork required is fasting glucose and/or HbA1c and fasting lipid level (Figure below). Add on HDL and LDL cholesterol if fasting lipids are elevated.
- Frequency of monitoring:
 - All inpatients should have metabolic bloodwork current to within 3 months
 - -All patients on antipsychotics or other high-risk medication (TCAs, Valproate and Lithium) should have baseline bloods on admission.

-Baseline and then 6 weekly measurements for patients commenced or up-titrated on olanzapine or clozapine.

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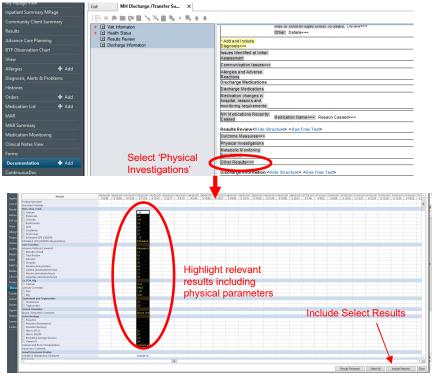
3. Lifestyle Intervention: Has been proven to slow or even halt the development of metabolic syndrome. *The NSW Government 'Get Healthy' program is a free service which can help link patients to exercise programs and even personal trainers. Seek assistance from OT and social workers to refer suitable and willing patients.*

4. Pharmacological Intervention(s): Need to be introduced on a case-by-case basis. These can also halt or reverse the progression of metabolic syndrome. Consider the following:

- Consultant-led antipsychotic switching may be appropriate for high-risk patients in some situations.
- Antihypertensives, statins/fibrates and antihyperglycemic agents are appropriate in certain scenarios but require knowledge of drug interactions, side effect profiles and initiation regimes. If unsure consider a medical consult.

5. Discharge Summary: Communication of results and the requirement for future monitoring/intervention to GP's and community teams is essential.

- Blood work and physical examination results can easily be auto populated into discharge summaries (Figure opposite). Do not forget to include at least one set of BMI, waist circumference and blood pressure.
- Discharge plans should stress the importance of ongoing metabolic heath monitoring. Try creating an auto-text phrase such as 'Patient has been discharged on psychotropic medication which can increase the risk of metabolic syndrome. Please monitor for weight gain, hypertension, dyslipidaemia and diabetes every 3-6 months and intervene with lifestyle and/or pharmacological interventions where necessary.'



Other Resources

The HETI 2014 guideline is a simple two-sided algorithm illustrating most issues raised in this memo. 'Positive Cardiometabolic Health: An early intervention framework for patients on psychotropic medication.' <u>https://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0008/449396/adolescent version HETI algorithm2014.pdf</u>

The following two guidelines provide excellent resources and standards for the ongoing care of mental health patients' physical health.

- RANZCP 2017 - Consensus statement for the treatment managing and monitoring of physical health of people with an enduring psychotic illness. <u>https://www.ranzcp.org/files/resources/college_statements/clinician/lambert-et-al-ranzcp-physical-health-consensus-p.aspx</u>

- NSW Health Guideline 2017: Physical Health of Mental Health Care Consumers: <u>https://intranet.nnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/docs/GL2017_019-physical-health-care-of-mental-health-consumers-v-002.pdf</u>