

Oral presentation

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Coercive measures on prison inmates with mental disorders

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from WPA Thematic Conference. Coercive Treatment in Psychiatry: A Comprehensive Review
Dresden, Germany. 6–8 June 2007

Published: 19 December 2007

BMC Psychiatry 2007, 7(Suppl 1):S47 doi:10.1186/1471-244X-7-S1-S47

This abstract is available from: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-244X/7/S1/S47>

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Background

The EUNOMIA study has assessed the clinical practice and the legal regulations of the use of coercive measures during psychiatric admission. An add-on EUNOMIA study is the COCEHOSPE Project. Objectives: a) to study in depth the use of coercive measures on psychiatric patients at Penitentiary Centers (two of the three Penitentiary Psychiatric Hospitals in our country and three ordinary prisons); b) to know – in relationship with our laws –, the possible bioethics and legal implications, in order to develop a basic proposal suitable to be the origin for a later legal regulation about use of coercive measures, within the penitentiary system, on psychiatric patients, with respectfulness to essential rights of the person.

Methods

The study is designed exclusively for therapeutic indications and not for penitentiary reasons. In exceptional circumstances, medical treatment requires to adopt measures that can damage fundamental rights of person, like freedom or privacy. These measures are relatively frequent in the psychiatric field and may consist of involuntary admission, forced treatment, seclusion, mechanical restraint and chemical coercion. In spite of medical suitability of the coercive measure, these can be the origin of conflicts. We will analyze variables related to the applied coercive measure, such as type of measure, incidence of the measures, causes of indication, the own opinion of the patient-inmate, the opinion of medical staff, more frequently affected pathologies, timing of use and medical services characteristics. The study design has just been finished and the questionnaires to be used for data collection

have been chosen: CAT, GAF, BPRS, MOAS and other scales. Expected deliverables: a) a legal analysis about the matter, b) a comparison between the practice of different centers practice, and c) to achieve a consensual protocol supported by previous deliverables.