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REVIEW OF 'PHYSICAL OTHER' CODING OUTCOMES FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT AFTER MANAGEMENT REFERRAL TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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Background

The electronic health record can be used to look for trends in referral reason and outcomes in occupational health. This information can lead to evidenced based preventative measures and targeted support[1]

Aims

•	To identify specific health conditions in 'Physical Other,' outcomes and to look for trends.

•	An author of this audit is a pre-reg nursing student. A proficiency they want to achieve is to demonstrate an understanding of the use of service delivery evaluation and audit findings to bring about continuous improvement.

Methods

•	An audit was undertaken in February 2023 of all 'Physical Other,' outcomes for management referrals assessed by Newcastle OH Service in January 2023.

•	Data was gathered on age, gender and details of health conditions.

Results

•	28 staff were identified as having been referred with symptoms that were coded as 'Physical Other,' 24(86%) were female and 4(14%) were male.

•	When the detailed assessments were reviewed the following trends were discovered in the 'Physical Other,' outcomes:

1) Mental health concern (21.43%)

2) Gynaecological health issue (17.86%)

3) Musculoskeletal symptoms (10.71%)

4) Symptoms relating to concurrent multiple health conditions (10.71%)

Conclusion

Mental health concerns and musculoskeletal symptoms accounted for 32.14%. There is already coding for these outcomes within the existing electronic record. This highlights a training need around accurate coding and that current statistics may not be representative.

The volume of gynaecological health issues and symptoms of multiple health conditions looks significant. Coding for this could support targeting resources to reduce and manage sickness absence relating to these conditions.

References:

References

1.Industry and Occupation in the Electronic Health Record: An Investigation of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Industry and Occupation Computerized Coding System

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