

# Publication Summary



## Scottish ECT Accreditation Network Annual Report 2012

*A summary of ECT in Scotland in 2011*

13 November 2012

### About this Release

This report summarises data collected from all Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) treatment clinics in Scotland for 2011. Data are presented in relation to patient characteristics, legal status, diagnosis, interventions and clinical outcomes.

### Key Points

- In 2011 there were 370 patients who received ECT, relating to 451 episodes of care.
- The most prevalent *primary diagnosis* for patients starting an episode of ECT was a depressive episode without psychosis (46%).
- The most common *indication* for treatment was medication resistance to antidepressants (56%). A total of 9% of patients received ECT as a life-saving procedure.
- The majority (66%) of episodes involved patients who were capable of giving informed consent.
- Overall, 70% of patients showed an improvement after an episode of ECT.
- The proportion of patients who showed an improvement after an episode of ECT was slightly higher for patients without capacity (i.e. unable to give informed consent) (77%), than with capacity (67%), possibly reflecting more serious illness in the former group.
- The use of continuation or maintenance ECT remains low, with only 21 episodes recorded in 2011.
- The most frequently recorded side effect was headache (26%).
- Critical incidents occurred in eight (0.2%) treatments.

- The majority of patients (70%) treated since the current SEAN audit began (2005) have received ECT treatment only once.
- All ECT clinics in Scotland achieved Accreditation by SEAN (the majority with Excellence).

## Background

The Scottish Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) Accreditation Network (SEAN) is a national clinical network with membership which includes Consultant Psychiatrists, Consultant Anaesthetists, ECT Nurses, Operating Department Practitioners and Recovery Nurses. The steering group in addition has representatives from the Scottish Government and the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

SEAN strives to deliver the three Quality Ambitions outlined in the Healthcare Quality Strategy for NHS Scotland; patient-centred, safe and effective care. As well as reporting annually on data collected from ECT clinics, SEAN continues its original remit to audit and provide accreditation to ECT services in Scotland. The CONECTS sub-group (Committee Of Nurses at ECT in Scotland), for nurses involved with the delivery of ECT, aims to enhance the quality of care through continual education.

As part of an ongoing commitment to maintain the quality of ECT services in Scotland, this years' report includes a section on SEAN's Accreditation process and the results from the first round of visits.

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [full report](#)  [1.2Mb], on the [SEAN website](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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