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INTRODUCTION

This audit assessed the compliance with legislation surrounding Section 47 certificates for Adults With Incapacity (AWI) who received dental treatment at St John’s Hospital, Livingston, and Howden Dental Centre. It also aimed to ensure justified use of the AWI certificates and to encourage residual capacity in these patients.

Table 1: Principles of Adults With Incapacity Act 2000

Principle 1	Must be of benefit to the individual
Principle 2	Is the least-restrictive option
Principle 3	Take account of the past and present wishes of the person
Principle 4	Consultation with/views of relevant others
Principle 5	Encourage the person to use existing skills and develop new skills

OBJECTIVES

This audit identified:

1. Whether there was documented evidence or justification for implementing AWI.
2. If there was evidence of the five principles being used.
3. If AWI certificates were being filled out by general medical practitioners (GMPs) or general dental practitioners (GDPs).

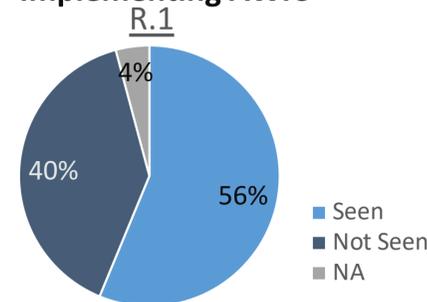
METHODS

Guidance used for this audit was primarily based on the AWI Act 2000, supported by the Faculty of General Dental Practice’s “*Dementia-Friendly Dentistry: Good Practice Guidelines*”, and National Education Scotland’s documentation intended for acute general hospitals entitled “*Think Capacity. Think Consent*”. Three months of data was collected retrospectively for the first round (N=48). Once the data was collected, analysed and appropriate corrective information on AWI principles relayed to the team, the same collection tool was used to collect a further three months of data prospectively for the second round (N=17).

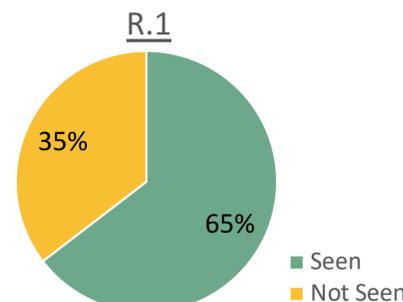
RESULTS

In round one, 40% of records did not include written justification for implementing AWI certificates, and 65% did not document evidence that principles of the AWI act were being applied. 94% of AWI certificates were issued by GMPs. In round two, 94% of records had written justification for the AWI certificate, and 88% showed evidence that the AWI principles were being followed. 76% of certificates were issued by GMPs.

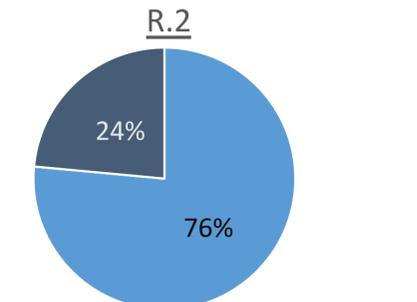
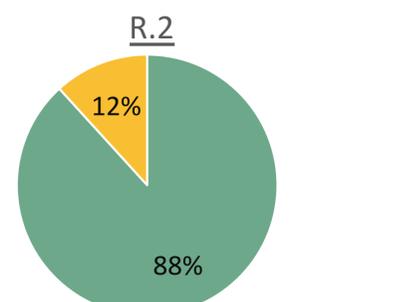
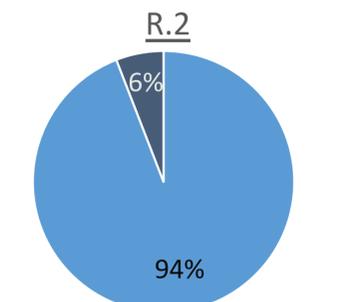
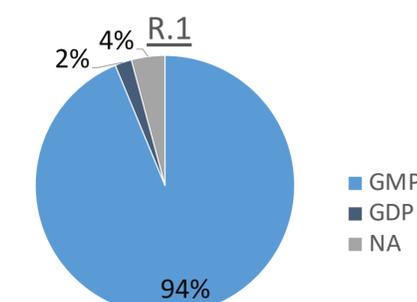
Written Justification for Implementing AWIC



Evidence of Principles being utilised



GMP or GDP signed



CONCLUSIONS

This audit showed that, before the intervention, there was often suboptimal dental record keeping for patients who have AWI certificates, frequently showing no written justification for the implementation of the AWI act. While the absence of a written justification for using an AWI certificate does not mean that the use was unjustified, it is best practice to keep such written records.

In both rounds of the audit, the majority of the AWI certificates were completed by GMPs rather than GDPs. This can be an issue when dental care is required because GMPs do not always specify that dental treatment is included in the AWI certificate. This suggests that more training should be given to GDPs to allow them to complete AWI certificates.

REFERENCES

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