

Towards Fail-Safe Risk Management

**Dr. Margaret O'Rourke
Consultant Forensic Clinical Psychologist
Farnham Road Hospital
Guildford Surrey**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

What is the Government Proposing?

- **New legal detention powers based on risk**
- **Improved assessment processes**
- **Improved treatment for detainees**
- **Better research into what works**
- **Gradual process of supervised discharge into the community**
- **Expert support for local services**
- **Prevention**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Some Important Points about Risk (1)

- **Risk can not be eliminated**
- **Risk is dynamic, constantly changing**
- **Risk may be general or specific**
- **Patients presenting risk to others are likely to present other forms of risk**
- **People with SPD have multiple needs and vulnerabilities**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Some Important Points about Risk (2)

- **Rigorous assessment and good practice can reduce risk**
- **Good assessment can not be performed in isolation**
- **Robust risk management is multi-featured, multi-sourced and multi-agency**
- **Having identified risk there is an absolute duty of care to manage it**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Some Important Points about Risk (3)

- **Fail-Safe Risk Management is Accurate, Complete & Communicable**
- **Some Interventions can be harmful**
- **People under section are not under oath**
- **Risk behaviours can be displayed by individuals and by organisations**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Risk Management can be improved by combining lessons learned in clinical practice with what is already known in four areas of inquiry:-

- **Research on the prediction of violence**
- **The clinical decision making and clinical judgements**
- **The literature on treatment outcome and programme evaluation**
- **Published inquiry reports since the RichieReport in 1994**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Inquiry Reports Highlight Key Areas of Concern (1)

- **Lack of rigorous objective and comprehensive risk assessment**
- **Failures in multi-disciplinary working**
- **Failures in inter-agency collaboration and information sharing**
- **Failures to include patients and their families or carers sufficiently in the risk assessment process**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Inquiry Reports Highlight Key Areas of Concern (2)

- **Failures in translating risk assessment information into risk management**
- **Failures in meeting the needs of people who pose risk to themselves or others**
- **Failures in Audit and Review**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Psychologists continue to make core contributions

- **Through R & D, and support to local services making assessment as robust and evidenced based as possible**
- **Providing measurement models rather than prediction models**
- **Working with patients, families, colleagues to contribute to prevention strategies and to the development of legal and clinical safeguards against false positives and unnecessary detention**
- **Reassuring those with unnecessary fears**
- **Ensuring public expectations are realistic: We are not creating a totally safe society**
- **Resourcing the system by providing effective treatment prevention and case management**

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

What is the RAMAS?

Risk Assessment, Management and Audit Systems RAMAS was developed in 1994 to:

- **ensure that people who pose a risk to themselves or to others do not “fall through the care net”**
- **ensure that a comprehensive health, social and personal needs assessment is carried out for everyone who comes into contact with services**
- **ensure that a clear, accurate, complete risk assessment is carried out in order to collate the “intelligence” through which robust risk management and audit may be made**
- **To provide a common language for inter-agency communication and collaboration on risk**
- **facilitate an integrated, co-ordinated, user friendly and positive approach to public safety and individual care**
- **facilitate case and workload management through a standardised method which provides evidence based care, clear, shared goals and good practice**

RAMAS

**RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS**

The Four Domains of RAMAS

RAMAS helps you Assess, Manage and Audit
risk of:-

Dangerousness

- **Mental Instability**
- **Self Harm / Suicide Risk**
- **Vulnerability**

Definitions of Risk Markers

- **Dangerousness:** At risk of causing harm or danger or encouraging / involving others in the causing of harm or injury to others
- **Mental Instability:** At risk of self or others because of fluctuating and/or unpredictable mental health function especially in relation to command hallucinations and other 'at risk' psychotic or disturbed phenomena
- **Self Harm/Suicide:** At risk from self, intentional injury or killing oneself, action/behaviours destructive to one's own safety or health
- **Vulnerability:** At risk of or exposed to damage or harm by or by others (e.g. family, society or in care)

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS

Definitions of Risk Markers

- **Dangerousness:** At risk of causing harm or danger or encouraging / involving others in the causing of harm or injury to others
- **Mental Instability:** At risk of self or others because of fluctuating and/or unpredictable mental health function especially in relation to command hallucinations and other ‘at risk’ psychotic or disturbed phenomena
- **Self Harm/Suicide:** At risk from self, intentional injury or killing oneself, action/behaviours destructive to one’s own safety or health
- **Vulnerability:** At risk of or exposed to damage or harm by or by others (e.g. family, society or in care)

RAMAS

RISK ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND AUDIT SYSTEMS