

Public Safety and Individual Care: Community Risk Management

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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**

Questions To Be Answered

- **What factors do clinicians and others take into account when making decisions about risk?**
- **What risk(s) are we trying to assess?**
- **What information are we using in our Assessment?**
- **How are we using this information?**
- **When do we act on this information?**
- **How do we evaluate the utility/accuracy of Risk Management?**

Factors Taken Into Account In Decision Making

Traditional Approach

- Past behaviour(s)
- Criterion behaviours
- Clinical judgements
- Cues/List of factors
- Predictions
- Thresholds/Weights

Problem: Simple measures

RAMAS Approach

- Multi-sources
- Multi-featured
- Multi-agency
- Multi-disciplinary

Solution: Multiple Measures

What risk(s) are we trying to Assess?

Traditional

- Dangerousness
- Violence
- Re-offending
- Relapse
- Suicide
- Sex offending

**Problem: Poor quality Risk Factors
Restricted Utility diff
populations diff tools**

RAMAS

- Dangerousness
- Mental Instability
- Self-harm/Suicide Risk
- Vulnerability
- All operationally defined
- **Needs & Treatment**
- **Skills & Resources**
- **Risk Management**


**Solution: Coherent set of Risk & needs
Assessments, parameters case
sensitive, flexible use with all
patients**

What information is used in the Assessment?

Traditional

- Risk factors
- Past behaviours

RAMAS

- Risk
 - Needs
 - Skills
 - Resources
 - Communication Chain
 - BLIP
 - Risk Management
- Protective Factors
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**Problem: Trying to predict
No peripheral information**

**Solution: Manage Treatment
Outcome includes all relevant
information**

How are we using this information

Traditional

- Clinical Predictions
- Statistical Predictions
- Actuarial/Figures to trigger
- Threshold Scores

Problem: Trying to predict clinically

RAMAS

- Risk & Case Management
- Clinical Effectiveness
e.g. Services connections, Family in.
- Clinical Governance
- N.S.F.
- Patient's Charter

**Solution: Clinical & Case Management
Defensible decision making**

When do we act on this information?

Traditional

RAMAS

- Static/Categories
- Threshold Scores
- Risk Management dictated by scores/categories

- Dynamic/Flexible
- Case Sensitive
- Multi-Input
- BLIP
- Risk Management

**Problem: Action decisions are “made”
by tool**

**Solution: Action decisions dynamic
and case and context sensitive**

How do we evaluate the accuracy of Risk Assessment?

Traditional

- True & False positives
- True & False negatives

RAMAS

- Through SR: Clinical
- By outcome
- By Behaviours

**Problem: We don't evaluate
beyond hit or miss**

**Solution: We get interactive &
influence process of change
& prevention**

PREDICTION MODELS

Problems in Practice

- **Methodological Problems**
 - **Restricted range of cues or factors**
 - **Limited applicability of research design**
 - **Inability to establish base rates**
 - **Failures to co-ordinate research**
 - **Major investment limited clinical utility**
- **Ethical Problems**
 - **Prediction rates are extremely low**
 - **False positives unnecessary detention**
 - **False negatives no treatment**
 - **Civil liberties (Human Rights Act 1998)**
 - **Public perception of risk**
- **Clinical Problems**
 - **Patients don't like it**
 - **Threshold for intervention unsafe**
 - **Blocks dynamic, creative interactive practice**
 - **Focus on Figure(s) . . . loses peripheral vision**

Government Proposals

RAMAS Response

- **A first draft**
- **Your evidence base?**
- **Submit this to NICE**
- **Need to test both the safety and efficacy of any proposals**
- **Any option must be underpinned with robust measurement models**
- **Integrate and build on research, academic and clinical practice accomplishments**
- **Psychology should lead modern prevention science**

Government Proposals

Decision Issues in Risk Assessment

- **Public Safety**
- **Individual, family, community safety**
- **Staff safety**
- **Communication Chain (Information sharing, Record keeping)**
- **Professional Issues (eg. Duty of Care)**
- **Individual Treatment and Care (Needs and Vulnerability)**
- **Relapse Prevention / Harm Reduction**
- **Effectiveness / Benefits**
- **Clinical Governance**
- **National Service Frameworks**
- **Discharge and Release**

“The greatest challenge for this new century is the need to move beyond traditional risk factors and prediction models to a framework for modern prevention science”