



PROFILE OF PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENTS DISCHARGED AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL (UP-PGH) PSYCHIATRY WARD INPATIENTS FROM JUNE 2012-JUNE 2017

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES: This study aimed to determine the possible factors influencing UP PGH Psychiatry Ward Inpatients' being discharged against medical advice (DAMA).

METHODOLOGY: A cross-sectional retrospective chart review was done involving DAMA patients from June 2012- June 2017. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, relative frequencies and measures of central tendency.

RESULTS: One thousand eight hundred twenty two patients were admitted from June 2012-June 2017. Seventy one DAMA patients were identified, 3 were excluded. 54 DAMA charts were located and analyzed. The overall prevalence of DAMA was 3.73%. DAMA seems to occur more with lower socioeconomic status (100%), single status (79.6%), 25-44 years age bracket (50%), diagnosis of psychotic disorders (68.5%), poor family support (63.6%), at least high school education (64.6%), living within Manila (74.1%), presence of watcher (100%) and the non -presence of suicidal ideations (78.8%). DAMA occurred more during the first four months of the year (35.2%) and during the 2-10PM shift (49.1%). Reasons for DAMA included family obligations, lack of continual watcher and assumed improvement.

CONCLUSION: Characterization of DAMA patients in the psychiatric setting was important in relation to drafting policies regarding health services provision, medical staff training and further research.

Key Words: *Discharge against medical advice (DAMA), Prevalence, Psychiatric inpatients*