

## ABSTRACT

This study looked at the perceived impact of brief training in the person-centred approach on nurse-patient interaction with nurses working in the mental health setting. The study was carried out in a mental health unit for people with severe and enduring mental health problems such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder, many patients also suffer from depression and anxiety and have been in hospital for many years. Focus groups were held pre and post training to collect data on what the nurses perceived had been the impact of the training on their interactions with their patients. The data show that the nurses felt that the training had helped them in their interaction with patients who had a diagnosis of a severe and enduring mental illness. Data also show that participants felt the training had impacted positively on their interaction with colleagues and family.

The study was limited by time restraints and the number of participants. However the results are encouraging in that the participants felt strongly that the training had had a positive impact on their interaction with patients and should be repeated for other staff in the unit, including other professionals and ancillary staff, and in other units in the trust.

The following recommendations are made:

1. To repeat the training with other ward staff in the unit to build team approach.
2. To run the training with other groups of staff such as housekeepers, administration staff and reception staff.
3. To offer the training to other units in the trust.
4. To set up supervision groups using this approach to support staff.