

## **P-889 - A STUDY OF 300 MENTAL HEALTH TRIBUNALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

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**Introduction:** In the United Kingdom, a Mental Health Tribunal has legal powers to discharge or uphold detention of patients who have been detained under the Mental Health Act. Detained patients cost a great deal of money for hospitals and tribunal services.

**Aims:** The purpose of the study was to identify whether patients were detained as per mental health legal criteria or not. We also considered the economic impact of these tribunals.

**Methods:** We collected and analyzed data from 300 tribunals held between 2006 and 2011. The most commonly used sections were - Sections 2, 3, 37 and 37/41.

**Results, analysis and discussion:** Our analysis showed that:

- Majority of patients detained under Section 2 were not discharged.
- Very few patients detained under Section 37/41 were discharged.

Blumenthal and Wessley (1994) reported that the total cost of holding Mental Health Review Tribunals was £12,274,380. In Scotland, the total costs for all Tribunal related activity in 2006-07 was £12,784,909.

In the current economic scenario it is worth investigating cost effective alternatives to Tribunals - especially in cases of Section 2 and Section 37/41 - where the data indicates that tribunals do not change the original recommendation.

Viable alternative would include locally conducted Managers Hearings; However it is of paramount importance to ensure patients' rights and the presence of independent panel members in such hearings.

**Conclusion:** We propose that more analysis, on a national level would be needed to determine the current cost of Mental Health Tribunals and to consider cost effective alternatives.