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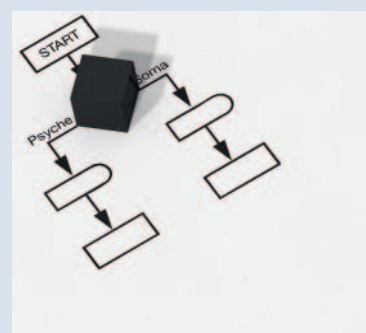
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**Cover image**

In this issue, Guthrie *et al* (pp. 175–180) attempt to open up the 'black box' of liaison psychiatry services – what does such a service actually do? The authors use retrospective case-note review of a single ward-based liaison psychiatry service to develop a pragmatic typology of liaison interventions, which might in future aid in outcome measurement.

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