Article
Routine hospital management of self-harm and risk of further self-harm: propensity score analysis using record-based cohort data The care received by people presenting to hospital following self-harm varies and it is unclear how different types of treatment affect risk of further self-harm. This study shows the potential value of using novel statistical techniques in large mental health datasets to estimate treatment effects. We found that specialist psychosocial assessment may reduce the risk of repeat self-harm. This type of routine care should be provided for all individuals who present to hospital after self-harm, regardless of perceived risk.

News
15,000 rail staff trained by Samaritans in suicide prevention Between April 2016 and the end of March this year, 1,593 interventions were made across Britain’s rail network by staff, British Transport Police, local police and the public, an increase of 40 percent on the previous year. In the same period, suicides and suspected suicides on the rail network dropped from 253 to 237, showing a decline in rail suicides for the second year in a row. This is a fall of 18 percent in two years and 2016/17 represents the lowest yearly figure since 2010. Railway suicides continue to account for approximately four percent of all suicides in the UK.

Report
Mental health in prisons Rates of self-inflicted deaths and self-harm in prison have risen significantly in the last five years, suggesting that mental health and well-being in prison has declined. Self-harm rose by 73% between 2012 and 2016. In 2016 there were 40,161 incidents of self-harm in prisons, the equivalent of one incident for every two prisoners. While in 2016 there were 120 self-inflicted deaths in prison, almost twice the number in 2012, and the highest year on record. Government needs to address the rising rates of suicide and self harm in prisons as a matter of urgency.

Factsheet
LGBTQ mental health – Rethink factsheet Gay and bisexual men are four times more likely to attempt suicide than the rest of the population. LGBTQ people under 26 are more likely to attempt suicide and to self harm.

Guidance
Facilities for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) This Health Building Note (HBN) provides planning guidance specific to CAMHS in-patient accommodation. It contains a section on anti-ligature fixtures and fittings.

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