

## ABSTRACT PSYSOM1

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### An Evaluation of the quality of the exchange of information between Public Psychiatrists and General Practitioners

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**Background:** The collaboration between the Psychiatrist and the General Practitioner is necessary due to the frequency of comorbidity, risk factors and the fact that this population takes poor care of their physical health. Few studies have evaluated the actual quality of this communication.

**Research question:** To determine the percentage of ambulatory psychiatric patients that have a GP, and to evaluate the quality of the communication between the Psychiatrist and the GP.

**Method:** A monocentric, observational study in three prospective stages among the patients consulting to the Community Psychiatric/ Medical Centre (CPMC) during one month.

1. Patient interrogation by a Psychiatrist to establish the presence of a known GP.
2. Telephone contact with the GP to evaluate the existence of somatic pathologies, to find out the extent of knowledge this Doctor had of his patients' Psychiatric illness and treatment, and to evaluate the GP's role in Psychotrope prescription.
3. Investigation of patient files at the CPMC to identify, within the file, the patient's named GP and mention of the patient's somatic pathologies .

**Results:** Of 143 patients questioned, 47 (33%) had a GP. His name was found in the Patient's Psychiatric file for 27% of patients.

28% of patients questioned had at least one chronic somatic pathology, that was not known by the Psychiatrist in 61% of cases.

The fact that the patient was also being seen at the CPMC was known by the GP in 89% of cases.

The Psychiatric diagnosis and its treatment was not known by the GP in 56% and 71% of cases respectively.

GP's prescribed Psychotropic medication for 35% of the concerned patients.

**Conclusion:** Patients followed at a CPMC have limited access to somatic health care. The lack of communication between psychiatrists and GPs is bilateral and is of concern for the patient's health.