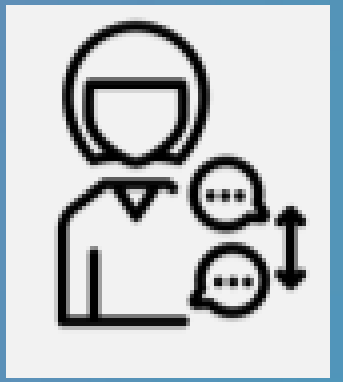


INTERPRETER-MEDIATED MENTAL HEALTH ACT ASSESSMENT – the INForMHAA study

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BACKGROUND

Code of Practice to the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 includes guidance with respect to Deaf signers and interviewing in a suitable manner

Language preferences of those assessed under MHA not recorded in core national annual reporting data set

Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) and interpreters recognise difficulties arise during MHA assessments when both are involved

Scant training and guidance in MHA assessments for AMHPs and interpreters

No evidence exists of compliance, monitoring of quality of practice, outcomes and impact on rights for all those involved in MHA assessments

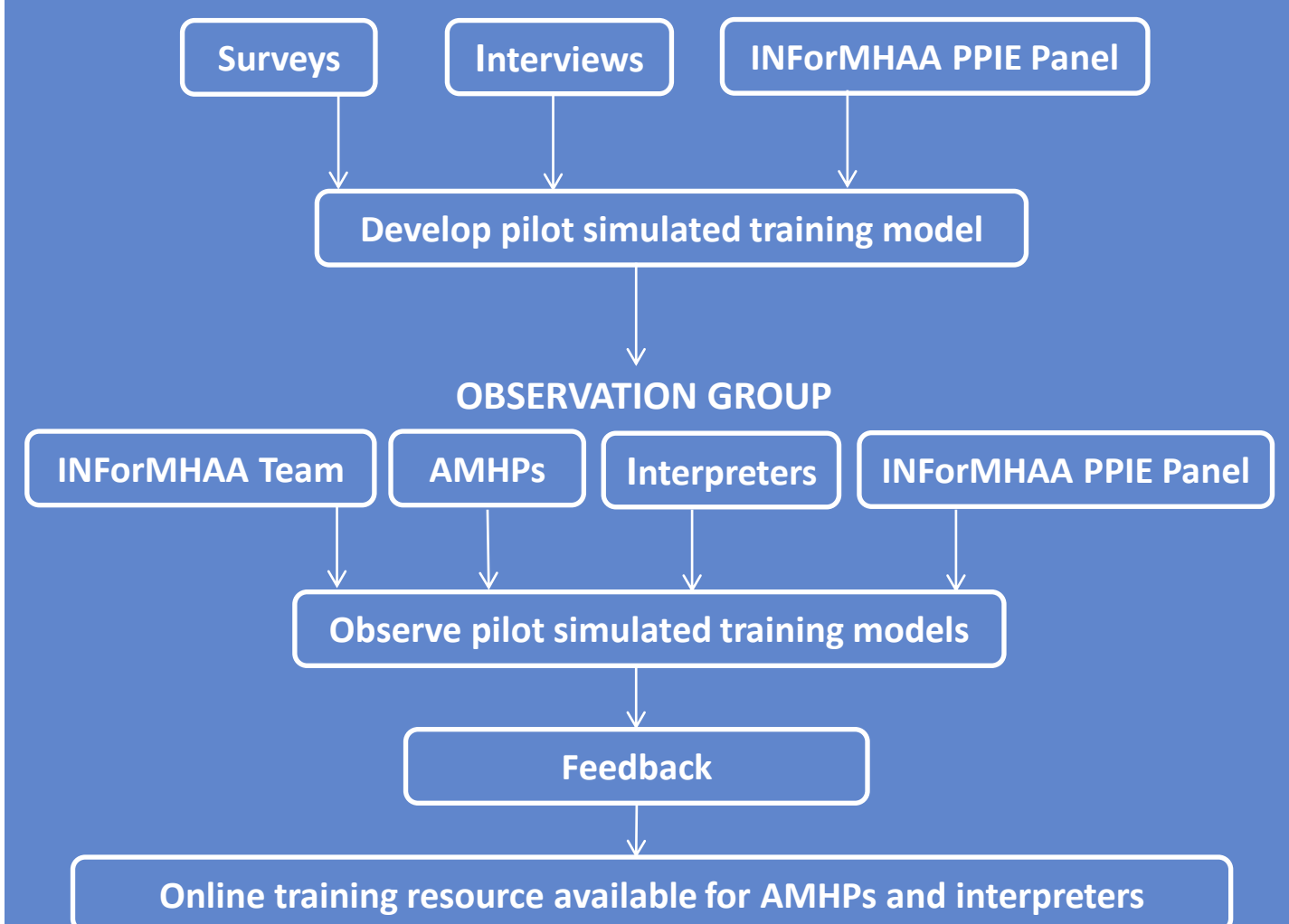
There is potential for unlawful detention because of lack of communication access but no case law

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. To what extent and how does the involvement of a spoken/sign language interpreter in MHA assessments in England constrain or enable best AMHP practice?
2. When might it be more appropriate to use language concordant services (e.g. language/cultural advocates) rather than interpreters within AMHP practice and how?
3. What constitutes an effective training model for AMHPs and professional interpreters?
4. What constitutes best practice in MHA assessments involving spoken/ signed language interpreters from service user and practice professional perspectives?

STUDY PHASE 2

Informed by the results from Study 1 surveys and interviews, Study 2 will set up an experimental training model built around semi-authentic stimulations (role plays). There will be 6 different interpreter-mediated scenarios and each scenario will have observer groups who will provide feedback.



IMPLICATIONS FOR WELLBEING

- Good practice guidelines for Approved Mental Health Professionals and spoken/sign language interpreters working in interpreter-mediated Mental Health Act assessments involving Deaf sign language users.
- Online training resources for Approved Mental Health Professionals and spoken/sign language interpreters to improve practice and safeguard the rights of those being assessed.

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STUDY PHASE 1

This study seeks to extend the literature review and to explore the implications of current practice with/without interpreter provision and/or in use of language concordant services.

Two online surveys will be sent out to:

1. Approved Mental Health Professionals
2. Spoken/sign language interpreters



To take part in the survey, AMHPs and interpreters will need to have experienced at least one interpreter-mediated Mental Health Act Assessments. The survey will ask about their experiences to identify challenges and good practices. At the end of the survey, participants can volunteer to be interviewed.

The study aims to interview 30 AMHPs, 30 interpreters and 10 AMHP educators. Theoretical sampling will apply for interview selection if many people sign up for interviews. Interviews will take place online and the aim is to elicit and expand participant experiences further based on their survey responses.



MENTAL HEALTH
AND WELLBEING



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