

assessment of comparability. It is inevitable that interpretative difficulties caused by lack of control over allocation may only be offset by a weight of evidence from several studies showing consistent results. Studies in our review have shown that service evaluations using automated databases, such as prescribing data, can provide both large samples and long term evaluation.

Conclusion

Referral to an on-site mental health professional may reduce referrals and prescribing by general practitioners, but there is no evidence that such changes are enduring or particularly broad in scope.

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Corrections

Misunderstandings in prescribing decisions in general practice: qualitative study

We apologise for an electronic glitch that affected the references in this paper by Nicky Britten and colleagues (19 February, pp 484-8). Unfortunately, at a late stage in the editorial process the reference numbers in the text disappeared, and this went unnoticed. We have reinstated the numbers in our website version; readers may access the corrected article at www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/320/7233/484.

Cross sectional study of reporting of epileptic seizures to general practitioners

An authors' error occurred in this paper by Dalrymple and Appleby (8 January, pp 94-7). In table 2, line 1 (number with driving licence) the numbers for patients with no seizures in the past year should be general practitioner 50, anonymous 41.

Endpiece

Why 19th century institutions are governed by representative bodies

It [the Victorian age] had no doubt that Representative Institutions, if they were safeguarded from corruption and if they were dominated by men with a high sense of the common good, afforded the only sure guarantee of public improvement or even stability. They were preservative, they were educative; they reconciled rulers and ruled, the cohesion of society with the rights and aspirations of its members; and the natural shortcomings of all representative bodies, vacillation, short views, slowness in action, were a price worth paying for their inestimable advantages. If indeed, upon those were induced faction and deliberate obstruction, then the future took a greyer colour.

G M Young, *Portrait of an Age: Victorian England*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1953 (second edition).