

## **Do we all speak the same language? A critical systemic functional discourse analysis of psychiatric hospital brochures**

### **Background**

Over the last decades, treatment of patients with mental health diseases has shifted from longer-term in-hospital diagnosis and treatment to brief crisis diagnostic and/or treatment stays in hospital wards combined with ambulatory care preventing relapse and promoting patient-centered recovery. To guarantee a shared understanding of the nature of the care provided, it is important that hospital brochures and ambulatory care information are aligned, both in the way in which they define and understand recovery and regarding how they approach the empowerment and activation of the patient.

### **Aim and research questions**

The overall aim of the study was to shed light on whether (1) hospital brochures used in crisis intervention centres in Flanders reflect the tenets of recovery-oriented and empowering care, and (2) the encoded messages are reflective of patients and their needs.

### **Methods**

A systemic functional critical discourse analytic framework was used to analyze a small corpus of hospital brochures.

### **Results**

Our findings suggest that the answers to both research questions are negative.

### **Conclusion**

This small-scale qualitative study on the under-researched population of psychiatric patients admitted to crisis intervention wards highlights the complexities involved in imparting well-aligned psychiatric care messages to the patients, their home caregivers, the medical community and the general public.