INTRODUCTION

Belgium law has two different systems of compulsory care. The first is a civil commitment measure and is considered to be a “preventive” measure for someone who poses an imminent threat to himself or others, and rejects voluntary care. The second is a legal sanction to an offense committed by an individual in a “mental state that renders him incapable of controlling his/her actions”. The latter law has been revised a few years ago, but has only been enacted by fall 2016. The gross majority of this population has diagnoses of psychotic disorders. The preventive compulsory care is applied to individuals posing a serious threat to themselves or to others. For example, someone who is delusional and aggressive in the streets, gets reported to the police, and brought to an Emergency Department, found to have a psychiatric pathology who renders him dangerous to himself and others, and is brought to a secure psychiatric ward for treatment. The preventive compulsory care is applied to individuals posing a serious threat to themselves or to others. For example, someone who is delusional and aggressive in the streets, gets reported to the police, and brought to an Emergency Department, found to have a psychiatric pathology who renders him dangerous to himself and others, and is brought to a secure psychiatric ward for treatment. This preventive care system is oriented to distinct health care systems. The aim of this article is to assess whether this legal triage results in adequate pathology and security triage. The preventive compulsory care is applied to individuals posing a serious threat to themselves or to others. For example, someone who is delusional and aggressive in the streets, gets reported to the police, and brought to an Emergency Department, found to have a psychiatric pathology who renders him dangerous to himself and others, and is brought to a secure psychiatric ward for treatment. This preventive care system is oriented to distinct health care systems. The aim of this article is to assess whether this legal response results in adequate pathology and security triage. The preventive compulsory care is applied to individuals posing a serious threat to themselves or to others. For example, someone who is delusional and aggressive in the streets, gets reported to the police, and brought to an Emergency Department, found to have a psychiatric pathology who renders him dangerous to himself and others, and is brought to a secure psychiatric ward for treatment. This preventive care system is oriented to distinct health care systems. The aim of this article is to assess whether this legal response results in adequate pathology and security triage. The preventive compulsory care is applied to individuals posing a serious threat to themselves or to others. For example, someone who is delusional and aggressive in the streets, gets reported to the police, and brought to an Emergency Department, found to have a psychiatric pathology who renders him dangerous to himself and others, and is brought to a secure psychiatric ward for treatment.