Abstracts

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FOUNDATION DOCTORS AS LEADERS OF FIRST AID TEACHING AND HEALTH PROMOTION IN UK SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGH #HEALTHINSCHOOLS: A NATIONAL PROGRAMME ENDORSED BY THE UKFPO

Ammar Ahmed, Kiran Patel, Oliver Lyons, Shiva Dindyal.

1University Hospital of Derby and Burton, UK; 2University Hospitals of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, UK; 3Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, UK; 4University Hospital of Derby and Burton, UK; 5Health Education UK; 6University Hospital of Derby and Burton, UK; 7NHS UK

Background The present study, #HealthinSchools, explores health professionals in training as leaders of first aid teaching and health promotion in UK secondary schools. First aid teaching in schools is associated with improved cardiac arrest outcomes and was mandated by the UK government in January 2019. Diet, sleep hygiene, smoking cessation, alcohol moderation and 20 minutes of daily exercise have been shown to prevent cardio-respiratory disease and alleviate depression.

Aims This study aims to: A) Identify an evidence-based approach to lead first aid teaching in UK schools, B) Promote behaviour change to prevent modifiable risk factors and comorbidities, C) Up-skill foundation doctors with leadership skills, D) Drive a sustainable NHS workforce which represents the community it serves.

Methods First aid teaching was delivered by 51 foundation doctors to 3251 UK secondary school children in 17 schools in regions of varying deprivation. Teaching sessions lasted one hour and were structured to include an: introduction, interactive face to face masterclass style demonstration, opportunity for pupils to practice on mannequins the psychomotor skills involved, including CPR, whilst being observed and a plenary. Pre and post-course questionnaires and focus groups were carried out among pupils and foundation doctors.

Results Results identified a significant improvement in trainee healthcare professionals’ perceived leadership skills and pupils’ knowledge and confidence of first aid skills. A statistically significant correlation was noted between schools in more deprived regions and increased pupil aspirations to: 1) incorporate 20 minutes of exercise daily and 2) apply for NHS careers.

Conclusions #HealthinSchools establishes healthcare professionals as leaders of effective first-aid teaching in UK secondary schools with potential benefits for widening participation to NHS careers and promoting healthy behaviour changes to reduce cardio-respiratory disease morbidity.

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USE OF ANTIPLATELET AND STATIN THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE: A CLOSED LOOP AUDIT

Sanjay Verma, Kenan Deniz. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is increasing in prevalence worldwide and is associated with significant risk of cardiovascular complications. NICE guidelines advocate combination therapy with clopidogrel 75 mg and atorvastatin 80 mg as first line for secondary prevention of PAD. We conducted a closed-loop audit to investigate whether patients with PAD admitted under the vascular surgical team at Basildon University Hospital (BTUH) were appropriately prescribed antiplatelet and statin therapy in accordance with NICE guidelines.

Methods An initial audit was performed investigating which antiplatelets and statins vascular surgical patients were prescribed during admission to BTUH. Data was collected over a 2-week period in December 2018 and presented at the local surgical audit meeting. Additionally, results were presented as an educational intervention at departmental teaching sessions aimed at junior doctors. A re-audit was conducted in April 2019 to evaluate the effectiveness of interventional strategies.

Results A total of 12 vascular patients were included with a mean age of 68 years. Co-morbidities included diabetes, CKD, hypertension, heart failure. Marked improvement was observed in both antiplatelet and statin prescribing following intervention. All patients received antiplatelets, with 50% being prescribed clopidogrel 75 mg alone, an increase from 13% observed in the initial audit. Further, all patients received statins, with 66.7% of patients being prescribed atorvastatin 80 mg, an increase from 26.7% seen in our initial audit.

Conclusion Patients with PAD should be commenced on clopidogrel 75 mg daily and atorvastatin 80 mg daily. Our results demonstrate that significant improvements were made with educational intervention and effective multidisciplinary cooperation. Our work may be replicated in different hospital trusts nationally with the aim of improving compliance with NICE guidance on secondary prevention of PAD.

LEADING TRANSFORMATION IN A REGIONAL NHS TERTIARY REFERRAL SERVICE (THE LATERAL SKULL BASE SERVICE IN LEEDS)

Sanjay Verma, Kenan Deniz. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

Leeds provides a regional tertiary referral service for vestibular schwannoma (also known as acoustic neuroma) and other lateral skull base pathologies, receiving referrals from across West Yorkshire. Such were the increasing demands on the service, it was struggling to keep pace with the volume of new referrals and follow up of existing patients, leading to unacceptably high waiting times for clinic appointments and results.

In March 2018 Mr Sanjay Verma assumed the position of Clinical Lead for the Lateral Skull Base service and led it through National Peer review. As a consequence of this several areas for improvement were identified. Mr Verma, and his neurosurgical Consultant colleague, Mr Kenan Deniz, devised an Action Plan, aimed at transforming the service, both to bring it in line with national guidelines and also to improve the quality of the service delivered to patients.

Firstly, a system of virtual follow up was introduced for patients being managed conservatively with serial MRI scanning. This has significantly improved the patient experience by obviating the needs for many patients to travel long distances for follow up appointments.

Secondly, Mr Verma and Mr Deniz engaged with Public Health physicians in a Better Value Healthcare project to determine the specific needs of the Lateral Skull base service, taking into account the perspectives of clinicians and patients.
As a result of this, collaborative work was undertaken with Radiology colleagues to determine the optimal and safest imaging protocol for managing patients conservatively.

Furthermore, a Lateral Skull Base Multidisciplinary Team discussion meeting and clinic were conceived and delivered, dramatically reducing patient waiting times for clinic appointments and results. This has culminated in the Lateral Skull Base service being awarded the 2019 Leads Teaching Hospitals ‘Time to Shine’ award for Improving Quality and Safety.

If you want to change to a Lean hospital with the aim of patient centricity, the main factor is ‘culture’. During a Lean transformation, it is not only key to properly train the staff in Lean principles, but also to trigger a cultural change and thus ensuring the sustainability of the Lean transformation. One of the major aspects to achieve the latter is to educate a view for i) processes and ii) the full cycle of care. To allow for an equal level of understanding of Lean principles across the hospital and to embark everyone on the Lean journey, a customized ‘Lean Hospital Training’- The PCM Academy was developed. Over the course of five levels, employees across all professions are slowly introduced to the main Lean tools. Thanks to an interactive, didactical approach attendees learn through simulations and role-plays. In addition, attendees value the fact to learn and work on their own real live and day-to-day examples/projects. Starting from level 3, attendees have homework and their own little projects between the course days. The modules are trained by interprofessional coaches, who still work in the clinic in addition to their role in the PCM Academy, either as doctor, nurse or project manager. Our approach is as little (slides) as possible and as much as necessary. Activities and simulations animate attendees to be in an active ‘doing’ mode and not passive ‘listening’ mode. By working on their own examples, attendees can immediately implement some of the changes in their daily work. Over the past 2 years we did observe a clear increase in demand for the PCM Academy courses. Also, the main Lean tools like, ‘gemba’, ‘kaizen’ and ‘huddle’, are not only familiar but also lived by most of the staff. By empowering the staff across all professions and hierarchical positions, we aim to see a clear increase in i) Patient centricity, ii) Trigger of cultural change and iii) Increased sustainability.

Mental health (MH) problems account for more than a quarter of the UK’s disease burden, with an estimated economic cost of £105 billion a year. Three quarters of chronic MH problems start before age 18. With the absolute rise in population mental ill-health, this problem is only set to grow. As the economic cost grows, this is an issue that will affect all—not just those with mental ill-health.

Assessment of the current situation and government plans identified some of the causes leading to poor Mental Health care. Using the Pareto Principle to stratify the causes, three key areas were identified: Children & Adolescents, Community Training and Data Collection & Research. The findings of this work have been presented to students and academics at Imperial College London.

Within each of these three areas, recommendations for the next five years offer an opportunity for healthcare professionals, primary care workers in particular, to support a healthier population and greater patient satisfaction. Implementation of these recommendations requires careful management and strong vision and leadership from healthcare professionals.