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PPE DONNING AND DOFFING CHECKLISTS – CREATING CLARITY IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

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Coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) poses a new hazard for healthcare professionals. Infection prevention relies on donning and doffing (D&D) personal protective equipment (PPE) safely. Studies have suggested the importance of clear D&D instructions in reducing the risk of self-contamination.\(^1\) Guidance on Covid-19 PPE from Public Health England (PHE) was sparse and ambiguous, leaving many operating department (OD) and ICU staff feeling unprotected.\(^2\) In view of this, anaesthetic trainees devised D&D checklists to improve staff confidence and safety.

A survey was created asking OD and ICU staff to rate their confidence in D&D following PHE’s guidance on a 10-point Likert scale (1 - low; 10 - high), if PHE guidance provided sufficient detail, and how it could be improved upon. New D&D checklists were devised based on existing guidelines and scientific evidence. Final checklists were approved and disseminated by Trust management. Same staff completed a post-intervention survey, asking to rate their confidence using new checklists on the same scale, if the new checklists improved upon PHE’s, whether sufficient checklists were displayed, and if not, where else they should be displayed. Data was tested using Wilcoxon matched pairs test.

37 staff completed both surveys. The most common suggestion was for detailed checklists. 97% of participants said PPE guidance was not available where required. Median confidence improved from 4 to 9 after using our new checklists (p<0.0001). All participants reported the checklists significantly improved upon PHE guidance. After dissemination, 95% of participants commented that sufficient checklists were displayed, but suggested displaying on resuscitation trolleys and COVID wards.

The results of our study demonstrate significantly improved confidence in D&D using our checklists. Through collaboration with the multidisciplinary team, anaesthetic trainees produced checklists that provided clarity on PPE procedures for staff across the Trust.

REFERENCES

Management and leadership

IMPROVING BAME ACCESSIBILITY TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

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Due to the poor representation of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) colleagues at a senior level in the NHS in 2015, the Workforce Race Equality was introduced.\(^3\) At this time the NHS was the fifth largest employer in the world, hiring over 1.2 million people. Fast forwarding a few years BAME employees made up 18.94% of this workforce, 11.2% of which held senior positions, including Band 8A and higher. These statistics were further affected by geographical locations with places like Newcastle reporting above 1% of BAME employees in a senior position.\(^3\)

This vast underrepresentation of the workforce at a higher level suggests poor access to senior positions by this cohort, and strongly suggests the topics discussed and decisions made to be poorly reflective of the collective requirements of those affected. This may also go on to affect the zeal and enthusiasm of employees wishing to pursue senior positions.

This article aims to look further at the evolving diversity within the NHS and opportunities available to BAME employees in order to improve accessibility to more senior roles.

BIBLIOGRAPHY