

Poster 51

Title: Active public involvement in healthcare-associated infection research

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Background: Partnership between service users and researchers is a cornerstone of the current research and development strategy for the NHS, and is considered by funders as essential throughout the entire research process. To promote and facilitate public involvement in the field of HCAI research, the HCAI Research Network (RN) formed a Service User Research Forum (SURF) to inform priorities and contribute to HCAI research. This poster shows how SURF is supported to develop its own research priorities into viable projects.

Methods: The HCAI RN has developed a robust process with SURF to identify priorities and develop feasible research questions, facilitate interrogation to assess viability and ethics and ensure potential benefits are defined. This enables lay researchers to contribute to literature reviews and desk research; determine appropriate funding; work in partnership with academic/ clinical researchers and undertake research team roles. The HCAI RN provides training and support for this process.

Results and discussion: SURF worked collaboratively with clinical and academic researchers to submit a proposal for funding to explore patient experiences of MRSA screening. The group is currently undertaking a collaborative project exploring undergraduate nurses' competence and confidence in relation to infection prevention skills. Active service user involvement contributes diverse perspectives, ensures projects are relevant to patients and the public, and empowers service users to make real contributions to the reduction of HCAI and drive change within healthcare settings. We continue to develop strategies to enable SURF involvement at all stages of research. Dedicated training and support ensures service users have the research skills and confidence to make their knowledge, experience and insights count in HCAI research.

Poster 53

Title: Using technology to reduce the risk of catheter associated urinary tract infection

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Improvement Issue and Context: Caring for patients who have an indwelling urinary catheter is a common feature of nursing practice, however these devices increase the risk for infection each day they remain in place. Recent prevalence audits within the Trust suggested that approximately 15% of the in-patients had a urinary catheter present at any one time with a catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) rate of 11%. The NHS Operating Framework for 2012/13 and Energise for Excellence aims to support the delivery of safe and effective care, concentrating on areas such as CAUTI reduction. However, for staff to achieve a reduction they need to review the rationale for catheterisation and, where necessary, monitor the duration the device remains in place.

Methods and Assessment: All wards within the trust currently participate in a yearly ward accreditation scheme where they are expected to achieve a certain standard to be awarded infection prevention and control accreditation status. The accreditation requires staff to undertake weekly or monthly audits on a variety of indicators using their ward dashboard as the main portal. The ward infection prevention & control web based dashboard was subsequently modified to incorporate patients with a urinary catheter. This development has the ability to send an email / SMS message to the ward manager / Matron and link practitioners to review the need for urinary catheter to remain in place. This development seamlessly integrates into the current dashboard and prevents staff utilising a separate toolkit. The evaluation of the catheter alert was commenced on one medical ward in May 2011, following the Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) model some modifications were made and then subsequently rolled out on two care of the elderly wards to assess the impact on number of catheters inserted and total catheter days.

Evidence of improvement: The results found the notification system helped to decrease the number of catheter days by 50% and as a consequence prevented 4 CAUTIs. Other benefits include enhanced awareness from nursing staff of the potential dangers associated with a urinary catheter and reduced complaints