

Developing a Pilot Peripheral Line Training Programme for Drs and Nurses in the South Central SHA

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Introduction

The publication "High Quality Care for All" (The Darzi Report)¹ advocated the importance of the NHS focussing on improving the quality of patients' safety and clinical care. In this respect the provision of educational initiatives for staff are particularly important.

The peripheral insertion of intravenous cannulae is a process having the potential for causing infection². It has been suggested that educational programmes can reduce catheter-associated infections by between one-half to two-thirds³.

The Peripheral Line Training Project

A successful service improvement project at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust demonstrated that educational initiatives about peripheral lines decreased MRSA rates. The South Central Strategic Health Authority (SC SHA) advocated the design of a pilot project to improve peripheral cannulation in all its acute NHS Trusts; the Peripheral Line Training Project.

Participants

All 8 other acute NHS Trusts within the SC SHA were invited to participate in the project. Representatives from 7 of these Trusts are involved*;

- Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
- Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Southampton Hospitals University NHS Trust
- Winchester & Eastleigh NHS Trust

Organisation

Ethics approval has been obtained from the University of Winchester. Trusts have been funded to recruit an iv therapy nurse; responsible for implementing educational initiatives and collecting data. These staff attend monthly "operational group meetings". 3-monthly steering group meetings involve key representatives from Trust management, eg educational leads & medical microbiologists.



Educational Initiatives

The project is a forum for sharing good practice in peripheral cannulation. Initiatives include a standardised training template which allows individual tailoring by each Trust, a standardised competency certificate and a view to standardisation of equipment (cannulae, bungs etc) throughout SC SHA.

Evaluation

- Monthly data will be collected from each Trust about no. of healthcare staff trained and no. of *Staphylococcus aureus* infections, to enable correlation.
- Observations will identify how training has been tailored at each Trust.
- Focus groups with the iv therapy nurses will explore training issues.
- Self-completion questionnaires will elucidate feedback from trainees (Drs & nurses) about their training.
- Interviews with key staff will identify organisational changes necessary to implement the training.

Results will be published in peer-refereed journal(s) in the spheres of education/infection control. A report, including recommendations, will be produced for the SC SHA.

References

1. Department of Health. High Quality Care For All. *The Stationery Office* 2008
2. O'Grady NP, Alexander M, Dellinger EP, Gerberding JL, Heard SO, Maki DG, et al. Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2002;35:1281-1307
3. Eggimann P. Prevention of intravascular catheter infection. *Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases* 2007;20(4):360-369