The study will use a mixed methods approach, to evaluate patient preferences for and the cost-effectiveness of OPAT service models" Czoski Murray et al (2015).

Abstract:

INTRODUCTION: Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) is used to treat a wide range of infections, and is common practice in countries such as the USA and Australia. In the UK, national guidelines (standards of care) for OPAT services have been developed to act as a benchmark for clinical monitoring and quality.

However, the availability of OPAT services in the UK is still patchy and until quite recently was available only in specialist centres. Over time, National Health Service (NHS) Trusts have developed OPAT services in response to local needs, which has resulted in different service configurations and models of care. However, there has been no robust examination comparing the cost-effectiveness of each service type, or any systematic examination of patient preferences for services on which to base any business case decision.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS: The study will use a mixed methods approach, to evaluate patient preferences for and the cost-effectiveness of OPAT service models. The study includes seven NHS Trusts located in four counties. There are five inter-related work packages: a systematic review of the published research on the safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of intravenous antibiotic delivery services; a qualitative study to explore existing OPAT services and perceived barriers to future development; an economic model to estimate the comparative value of four different community intravenous antibiotic services; a discrete choice experiment to assess patient preferences for services, and an expert panel to agree which service models may constitute the optimal service model(s) of community intravenous antibiotics delivery.

ETHICS AND DISSEMINATION: The study has been approved by the NRES Committee, South West-Frenchay using the Proportionate Review Service (ref 13/SW/0060). The results of the study will be disseminated at national and international conferences, and in international journals.

Reference:

Czoski Murray, C., Twiddy, M., Meads, D., Hess, S., Wright, J., Mitchell, E.D., Hulme, C., Dodd, S., Gent, H., Gregson, A., McLintock, K., Raynor, D.K., Reynard, K., Stanley, P., Vincent, R. and Minton, J. (2015) Community IntraVenous Antibiotic Study (CIVAS): protocol for an evaluation of patient preferences for and cost-effectiveness of community intravenous antibiotic services. BMJ Open. 5(8), p.e008965.

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