

'Barriers to Participation in Research in a DGH: a healthcare professionals view'

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Introduction

There are clear gains and benefits to be made to the NHS, a District Hospital and the local patient population by engaging with clinical trials. For patients, access to high quality clinical research opportunities along with new and novel treatments as a standard of care at their local hospital is achievable. The establishment itself becomes a contributor to evidenced based practice within the NHS via collaboration opportunities with academic institutions and the commercial sector.

Purpose

To capture the attitudes, knowledge and awareness of healthcare professionals about clinical trials to examine the barriers to participating in clinical research at Yeovil District Hospital (YDH)

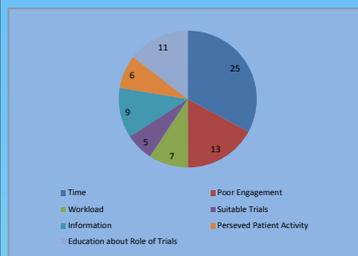
Participants

The questionnaire was available to all health care professionals (HCP) within YDH. Responses were received from 117 participants who all provided consent

Methods

- ❖ Qualitative service evaluation using a web based seventeen point anonymous questionnaire over a 4 week period as part of a MSc thesis
- ❖ A combination methodology enabled quantitative analysis with a qualitative outcome by using a five point Likert scale measure to capture frequency of themes. In addition a selection of open questions was included to capture individual responses.

Results



TIME !

Huge amounts of paperwork

Patient anxiety... communication skills ... gatekeeping

Results

Reluctance of staff to become engaged...few juniors would go looking for involvement

A lack of understanding of the clinical research process

Environment

Discussion & Conclusions

A high level of support for clinical research was demonstrated and a repetition of themes apparent. Limited staff and resources is a challenge and much research is absorbed by interested parties into their regular workload

Poor engagement of HCP was repeatedly discussed as a barrier. The responses suggested that amongst time and workload, a lack of understanding of the research process and the importance of clinical trials was present

Information for both patients and staff was repeatedly raised as an issue

The data collected will be relevant in informing local future strategies by the very people that are involved in clinical research at YDH

Recommendations

This study provides the foundations on which to build and inform future research strategies at YDH

Reducing bureaucracy, reviewing resources and providing research infrastructure to support the co-ordination of clinical trials and investigators will help address those barriers identified

Additionally, the data highlighted the need for a visible research team within the Trust and to develop the 'research community' at YDH

Trust response so far...

- A Trust induction leaflet has been developed from study data and aims to provide more education about the research process to all staff.
- Further educational sessions are planned to ensure health care professionals are aware of how much support there is available within the established clinical research team

References

A qualitative study of attitude and awareness of clinical trials amongst health care professionals in a district hospital to inform future recruitment strategies – Kerry Rennie

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