

Knowledge and Library Services Case Study

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust Library and Knowledge Service: Change of practice in Podiatry

September 2022

Reason for enquiry

A Podiatry Team Lead at Salford Care Organisation was investigating if there was evidence to support the addition Sodium Hydroxide for the chemical ablation of the nail matrix and nail bed in nail surgery for the treatment of onychocryptosis. Evidence was requested comparing the use of Sodium Hydroxide and Phenol. The Library and Knowledge Service was approached to provide an evidence search, which was undertaken by Amanda Balaam, Assistant Librarian.

What the knowledge and library specialist did

A number of databases were searched, including Medline, Embase, Emcare and AMED, as well as general internet search.

From these searches, results were evaluated and a results document was prepared containing a number of articles comparing the two chemical preparations.

Impact of input from the library and knowledge service

The Team Lead commented “We literally could not have done this work without the support of the Library and Knowledge Service”.

The evidence provided was used to support a Formulary application through the Trust’s Medicines Optimization Group.

Immediate Impact

“The evidence provided supports a change in clinical practice in Podiatry at Salford Care Organisation which is anticipated to be introduced across the whole of the Northern Care Alliance as the evidence will allow for the nail surgery pathways to be aligned across all care organisations as part of a wider piece of work. The evidence supports safe and improved clinical outcomes across all patient groups including those who are at increased risk and those who are pregnant and breastfeeding. As a result we are excited to be able to reduce health inequalities and provide the same quality of care and continuity of patient care across all patient groups while reducing the risks of post operative infection due to reduced post operative pain, less post operative drainage and faster healing times.”

There will also be a benefit to the District Nursing Teams as fewer dressing changes will be required.

“This change can save the Care Organisation approximately £18,000 a year”.

Probable future Impact

The Team Lead is part of a Podiatry Working Group looking at aligning services across all Care Organisations in the Northern Care Alliance.

“Introducing the change of practice to the other Care Organisations across the Northern Care Alliance will lead to increased savings across the Trust”

Name and Job Title:

Heather Toner, Advanced Podiatry Team Lead

For further information on how you can get similar support contact your local NHS library and knowledge service.

Submission Details

[To be completed by Knowledge and Library Service at the point of submission]

Name of Organisation

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

Knowledge and Library Service Contact Email:

Amanda Balaam – Amanda.balaam@nca.nhs.uk

Title of Case Study

Comparison of the use of sodium hydroxide and phenol for the chemical ablation of the nail matrix and nail bed in nail surgery for the treatment of onychocryptosis

NHS Region *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

East of England

London

Midlands

North East and Yorkshire

North West

South East

South West

Sector *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Acute

Acute and community

Care Trust

Clinical Commissioning Group

Commissioning Support

Community Trust

Cross-sector

Local Education and Training Board

Mental Health

Mental Health / Learning Disability

Mental Health / Social Care

Primary Care

Public Health

Shared Service / Informatics

Special HA

Other. If other, please specify

Group Impacted *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Additional Clinical Services

Administrative and Clerical

Allied Health Professionals

Estates and Ancillary

Healthcare Scientists
Medicine and Dental
Multiprofessional
Patients, Carers and the Public
Nursing and Midwifery
Scientific and Technical
Students

Impact Types *[Make bold any of the impact types below which apply]*

Contributed to personal or professional development

Contributed to service development or delivery

Facilitated collaborative working

Health Information for Patients, Carers and the Public

Improved the quality of patient care

Mobilising evidence and organisational knowledge

More informed decision making

Productivity and efficiency

Reduced risk or improved safety

Saved money or contributed to financial effectiveness

Improved health and wellbeing of staff and learners

Consent

I have consent from individuals referred to in this case study to share details nationally for advocacy and promotion. *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Yes

No