

Knowledge and Library Services Case Study

University Hospitals of North Midlands: Health Library for North Staffordshire Trusts and Keele University health faculties: Management of post-traumatic amnesia AND Management of Trache weaning

22/08/2022

Reason for enquiry

Initial enquiry was from a speech and language therapist within acute hospital trust who wanted to develop her own research and critical appraisal skills with a view to running a journal club within her department to improve evidence-based approach to care. She approached Gill Grigson, one of the Training and Information Support Librarians within the Health Library

What the knowledge and library specialist did

Developed a bespoke series of training sessions over a 4 week period covering: searching primary and secondary databases, critical appraisal of RCTs and qualitative literature, searching for systematic reviews and grey literature. In addition a number of links were sent for follow-up reading, free e-tutorials provided by the library, examples of data extraction and PRISMA flowcharts, links to follow-up services that the library could offer.

Some months later, provided signposting for support to the same enquirer, who wanted help in setting out a literature search strategy for a particular research project into weaning from tracheostomy

Impact of input from the library and knowledge service

Immediate Impact

Direct quotes from the enquirer:

“As a senior clinician with a responsibility for service and team development this (training) has:

- Increased my confidence to search for literature myself to drive service development and make sure that articles I've found are supported by other research and that I'm not missing potentially useful sources of evidence. This has translated directly into plans to improve patient care after

finding a well written and evidenced protocol to improve management of patients in post traumatic amnesia - which will replace old training approaches which have had limited success

- Given me the confidence in critical appraisal to share my thoughts on evidence with colleagues and have meaningful discussions about the evidence base for care provided and usual treatments
- Given me the confidence to lead a journal club within the two teams I work in which will enable me to share critical appraisal skills, make research more accessible for junior members of the team and instil an evidence-based practice mindset within the team, and encourage the wider teams to think about ways to keep our practice up to date.
- As an aspiring clinical researcher the training has moved me closer towards my goal of being able to create research capacity within UHNM and answer our own clinical questions, find & use the evidence already out there and be clear about the gaps we can address from here.
- I will be encouraging other members of the team to access the library's educational resources wherever I can and facilitating time for them to do so because I can clearly see the potential impact on quality of services and clinician confidence that good literature searching and appraising skills can give

Since the training I have:

- Used it to explore and share literature around complex tracheostomy weaning with the MDT and we are now working on developing that into an algorithm to guide trache weaning and make more consistent practice.
- Started set up of a journal club to work out how we implement newer treatment for swallowing disorders in speech and language therapy.
- Used the skills learnt to find the papers which give supporting evidence for taking a new treatment to governance – that treatment might help some patients wean from tracheostomies quicker and give opportunities for communication earlier.
- Better literature searching means I'm finding more papers to appraise and getting much better at appraising the evidence – which makes me a better clinician and means the quality of my care and the choices I can give my patients are better.
- I'm more research focussed and that rubs off on the team

Probable future Impact

“As a part of the trache literature searching I have done, we think essentially the specific question we have (as our patient population is a small one) is not well answered in the literature. From the searching I have done I think that there are probably papers on individual trache weaning techniques, but what happens in clinical practice is a combination of these”

The team now intends to:

- Devise a structured literature review showing which techniques are well evidenced
- Work with the library and with CeNREE (part of the research department) to develop research protocols
- Use the results to support the creation of an algorithm which will directly impact on patient care
- The service expects to increase its ability to fulfil NHSE commissioning requirements to be a research active unit, identified in the service review.

Name and Job Title:

Claire Rae, Advanced Speech and Language Therapist
University Hospitals of North Midlands

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

Health Library of North Staffordshire

Knowledge and Library Service Contact Email:

Louisa.fulbrook@uhnms.nhs.uk

Title of Case Study

Management of post-traumatic amnesia AND Management of Trache weaning
(Personalised study leading to departmental changes and improved patient care)

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