

Interim progress report: Developing and evaluating the use of online clinical quandaries in the training of health professionals in the management of aggression

The aim of this project was to explore the benefits of using online clinical quandaries as learning activities in a blended learning approach i.e. the combination of face to face with online teaching, for health and other staff in relation to the management of aggression. This involved the following steps:

1. Writing and submitting a research proposal for ethical approval.
2. The development of an online clinical quandary in relation to the assault cycle and reactive strategies, which incorporates as many key elements of good practice in developing game informed learning activities as possible
3. To evaluate the impact of this online quandary on the knowledge of staff about the assault cycle and reactive strategies in managing aggression.
4. To evaluate the impact of the quandary on staff confidence in managing an aggressive incident.
5. To evaluate the staffs' experience of using the clinical quandary
6. Dissemination of the results, including writing up a paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Progress to date:

Writing and submitting a research proposal for ethical approval.

A proposal was written and submitted. Advice from NHS Borders/Lothian ethics committee was that a full IRAS ethics submission was not required as the project could be deemed to be service audit/development.

The development of an online clinical quandary in relation to the assault cycle and reactive strategies

An initial quandary has been developed in collaboration with staff from the training department. This will be amended following further discussions and my attendance at a face to face training session on managing violence and aggression in December, to ensure that includes all key elements.

Evaluating the impact of this online quandary on the staff knowledge, confidence in managing aggressive behaviour

Evaluation materials have been developed in conjunction with staff in the training department and will be used in face to face teaching sessions as well as with staff using the clinical quandary.

Evaluating the staffs' experience of using the clinical quandary

A questionnaire has been devised for this purpose and staff will be asked to complete this after using the clinical quandary.

Dr Karen McKenzie

November 2010