



West Midlands Education Innovation and Notable Practice

JUNIOR DOCTOR PATIENT SAFETY FORUM

2010 - 2011



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BURTON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Overview:	To encourage awareness of patient safety issues in our junior doctors we set up a junior doctor patient safety forum. The forum is used for education around patient safety issues, to discuss trainees' concerns where they feel patient safety is an issue and to support patient safety projects among junior doctors.
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Junior doctors are on the front line of patient care and thus have a different view of potential harm to patients from those slightly more removed. To raise their awareness of and give them a role in dealing with patient safety issues we set up a junior doctors' patient safety forum in August 2010. The forum meets monthly and forms part of the Foundation Doctors' core teaching. Other more senior trainees are invited to attend.

Sessions are facilitated by the clinical patient safety lead and postgraduate clinical tutor. These vary in content – some revolving around patient safety education whilst others deal with support for specific projects. They all include opportunities for the juniors to raise specific patient safety concerns. The format of the sessions is open and interactive. Educational topics have included concepts of patient safety, the role of audit, a talk from an airline pilot on air industry safety, handovers, a visit from a non-executive governance lead and PDSA cycling.



A number of junior doctors have established and/or taken part in Trust wide projects to deal with patient safety. Areas addressed have included i.v. cannula care, handover, discharge summaries, oxygen prescription and thromboprophylaxis. When problems are addressed/audited the emphasis is on developing solutions (rather than just data collection) and, in most cases, the junior doctors are involved in the planning and implementation of solutions and where appropriate providing education to change practice.

We feel the forum has been successful because it:

- raises awareness of patient safety concerns among junior doctors
- provides a forum for junior doctors to raise patient safety concerns
- encourages junior doctors to develop and implement solutions to issues raised
- emphasizes the importance of the audit cycle – particularly the planning/implementation/re-audit stages
- develops leadership skills among junior doctors
- has allowed a number of our trainee doctors to present their work at national meetings

Picture: Sarah Wren (GPVTS) receives the Junior Doctors' Prize from Dr Das for her presentation of the hospital wide i.v. cannula audit.