

Conclusion: Nursing, Midwifery Council in the UK (NMC) (1998) highlights the significance of record keeping in promoting continuity and consistency of care, which can also lead to enhance evaluation of clinical practice. The proposed audit will give us a more detailed insight into the effectiveness of current documentation. The audit will include separate questionnaires for patients and nursing staff.

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POSTER

Impact of the National Cancer Research Network clinical trials portfolio at Guy's & St. Thomas' Hospital and peripheral trusts in SE London

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Background: In response to the UK NHS Cancer Plan, the National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) was established to promote research activity in England, by increasing recruitment of cancer patients onto clinical trials. The NCRN is working towards a national target of increasing recruitment of 10% of new cancer patients onto clinical trials. On a regional level, the South East London Cancer Research Network (SELCRN) was set-up to promote trials in six NHS Hospital Trusts within SE London. King's College and Guy's & St. Thomas' Hospitals are established research centres supporting cancer clinical trials. However, other hospitals within the network have little or no experience in this area.

Material and Methods: With the advent of the NCRN, many non-commercial clinical trials at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital have become endorsed by the NCRN. This has resulted in existing trial nurses continuing to manage these studies, with the added advantage of receiving additional support from SELCRN. With the introduction of the endorsed trials, there is now a wider choice of studies available and patients can be recruited onto the most appropriate regimen. Problems may arise when a commercial and NCRN endorsed study are in direct competition for recruitment as commercial trials generate income, but NCRN studies only count towards government targets.

SELCRN research nurses have been recruited to establish with the other hospital sites, an environment whereby trials can be successfully introduced and supported. Whilst local staff at the peripheral sites have been supportive and enthusiastic, the SELCRN nurses have experienced some difficulties. These include; long delays in receiving local ethics approval, lack of physical resources (e.g. space) and problems resulting from hospitals being unable to provide services required by the study (such as chemotherapy). It is hoped that by introducing trials at peripheral hospitals in SE London, patients throughout the region will have the opportunity to participate in studies without the need to travel to Guy's & St. Thomas's Hospital, which may be geographically distant from their home.

Results and Background: We will discuss the impact the introduction of the NCRN trial portfolio has had on existing staff at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital and SELCRN staff at the peripheral sites. We will highlight the difficulties each has encountered whilst identifying the beneficial effects of introducing the NCRN portfolio for both staff and patients.

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POSTER

Co-operation and competence in cancer care

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As nurse consultants in the Norwegian Cancer Society (DNK) we often get insight in how the cancer patient experience their meeting with the public health system. Both patients and health workers report a lack of communication between the different levels of the system. Good co-operation requires qualifications and must be developed. Our project is meant as a contribution to this and the aim is: "DNK will cooperate with professionals in the public health service to establish models for cooperation and communication. The aim is quality assurance of the health care services offered cancer patients." 1. Stimulate the establishing of multi professional competence groups in separate municipals or inter municipal, if desired with representation from hospitals. 2. Further develop and participate in establishing structured models of co-operation between levels of health care and other municipal services. 3. Based on defined needs offer teaching as part of competence-enhancement 4. Pinpoint, coordinate and use existing knowledge and resources The projects timeframe is 010201 – 311203 The project carries out in 13 municipals in the three counties; Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, and one hospital in each county participate. Measures:

- multi professional resource groups are established in the municipals. Participants are from health care, social services, the local Social Security Office, pharmacy, parish - the groups receive teaching and counseling - routines and procedures for cooperation will be tested out - inter municipal network meetings will be carried out The project is meant to give the individual cancer patient a better life based on higher level of confidence and a better coordinated health care. For the professionals it is meant to give an opportunity for enhanced knowledge and a better workday as a result of better information flow and communication.

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POSTER

Education of oncology nurses

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Educational programme for oncology nurses - Basic Course intended for nurses beginners, after four-year secondary schooling, has been conducted at Institute of Oncology and Radiology of Serbia since 1996.

Department for educational activities, ie. Section for staff- nurses education was established at Institute of Oncology and Radiology of Serbia in 2002.

Such an organizational model enabled more systematic approach to application of educational programme, of which contents was partially innovated and combined with the corresponding number of classes in practice.

Aim: To investigate level of specific knowledge in oncology health care before conducting educational programme and after finishing the programme.

Methodology: N= 22 participants attended the course of similar age and working experience of 1-2 years.

Instrument: Test of knowledge before and after educational course.

Educational programme includes primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, principles of multidisciplinary treatment, health care in oncology surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, pediatric oncology and terminal phase of illness.

Discussion: Analysis of the test results before educational programme showed dissatisfied knowledge of majority of participants, especially in the field of radiotherapy. Final test will be conducted after finishing education at the end of May 2003, and the results will, eventually, be presented in ECCO Conference.

Conclusion: Dissatisfied knowledge before education and nurses interest during the course indicate need for acquiring specific knowledge, so it is realistic assumption that final evaluation will be positive.

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POSTER

The use of a written treatment plan to improve patient information. An audit of patient satisfaction.

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Recognition of the importance that patients with cancer attach to information provision has been widely acknowledged (Meredith et al 1999, Knowles et al 1999, Fredette & Beattie 1986). However, retaining detailed explanations of complex cancer treatment can be difficult for patients. The environment of the out-patient clinic makes effective provision of patient information challenging for health care professionals because of the rapid throughput of patients. This paper will present the introduction of a written Oncology Treatment Plan as a way of improving patient information provision and retention following oncology clinic consultation. The treatment plan gives patients' a record of whom they saw and what treatment was decided with the addition of common side effects in a tick box format. Hospital and patient contact numbers are provided within the treatment plan. The treatment plan was introduced in a colorectal out-patient clinic. Involvement of the clinic nurses was crucial to ensure that all new patients attending the clinic received a written record of the treatment decision. The use of the treatment plan and patient satisfaction with information was audited. Patients were sent questionnaires regarding their satisfaction with information provision and usefulness of the treatment plan. 50 patients were sent questionnaires, 45 responded showing a 96% response rate. The results of which will be presented.