

P027

P027 -Exploring Patient Safety Among Renal Trainees

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Introduction

Following the publication of the Francis Inquiry and the Berwick Report, patient safety has been formally prioritised above all other aims for the NHS. For the renal team, specialty-specific issues around patient safety have been identified as one of the main challenges moving forward. Very little training is dedicated to learning the principles of patient safety, or the mechanisms by which it can be improved. This led to the hypothesis that renal trainees could benefit from training in patient safety.

Methods

We conducted a nationwide cross-sectional survey, by single email invitation, to renal trainees who were associated with the SpR Club in 2018. This single invitation approach was chosen to sample interest in patient safety and trainee willingness to participate in the survey. The SurveyHero online resource was used to formulate a 15 question, rapid-response survey. Questions mainly required Yes/No answers or Agree/Disagree answers on a numerical scale of 1-10. Whilst free-text boxes were also offered for each question, populating these with information was not required to complete the survey. Responses were anonymised.

Key Results

- Only 13 trainees responded to the survey.
- Twelve of 13 trainees felt that patient safety was important in their daily care of renal patients, felt they could actively influence patient safety, and felt their department had a culture that supported patient safety.
'Patient safety is present in most/all of the daily interaction with patients, whether directly related to invasive procedures, safety on dialysis and when responding to abnormal blood results'.
- Nine out of 13 trainees felt that barriers to patient safety existed, within their department.
'Resistance to change from senior leaders, lack of time to initiate change, no clear direction how to organise change agent tools.'
- Only five out of 13 trainees felt that the renal training Curriculum supported training in patient safety, but twelve of 13 trainees said they would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate competency in patient safety.
'We are expected to do QI projects without decent training in their methodology.'
- Only six of 13 trainees felt that they had a good understanding of patient safety issues faced by renal patients (results of individual patient safety issues will be presented).

Conclusions

Electronic survey may be a suboptimal way in which to sample trainees about patient safety, given the poor response rate. It is difficult to say whether the respondents' views represent those of the larger body of trainees.

Trainees responding to the survey felt that patient safety was important, but that barriers existed to safe practice.

Willingness to demonstrate competency in patient safety exists, but Curriculum-based training opportunities are insufficient, resulting in only half of respondents feeling that they understand renal patient safety issues.

Overall, the survey suggests there are may be unmet training needs in patient safety, among renal trainees.