

Lessons learnt programme – engaging junior doctors in patient safety

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Aim

To improve awareness and recognition of patient safety incidents, to engage junior doctors in the process of incident investigation, and to promote learning and a no-blame culture.

Introduction

Junior doctors are at the front line of clinical medicine and are regularly exposed to patient safety incidents (PSIs). Despite this, it is well recognised that a large number of PSIs are unreported and that junior doctors are low reporters.

The 'Lessons learnt' programme is a patient safety training programme where trainees lead a peer-group discussion and analysis of a PSI in a safe, facilitated forum. The programme was originally developed in North Western Foundation School and has been evaluated comprehensively with high satisfaction rates. I led the introduction of this programme for all foundation year 1 (FY1) doctors in my trust.

Methods

An introductory session was held in December 2017 which included collection of a pre-programme questionnaire to evaluate FY1 trainees' understanding and experience of PSIs.

Twenty-two FY1 doctors completed the pre-programme questionnaire. Findings revealed that 86% stated they had witnessed a PSI, but only 28% had completed a safety learning event form. Fifty-nine percent were confident in identifying an incident, but only 32% understood the root cause analysis process.

A monthly 1-hour session was integrated into the mandatory bleep-free foundation teaching programme. In each session, FY1 volunteers to present a patient safety incident they have encountered, and this forms the basis for a facilitated small-group discussion. The discussion is structured to follow a shortened root cause analysis process, focusing on the lessons learnt and actions that can be taken.

Results

Feedback received from participants so far has been good to excellent (Fig 1).

Trainees have been keen to volunteer to present a case, with a variety of PSIs discussed. A questionnaire was completed at the last

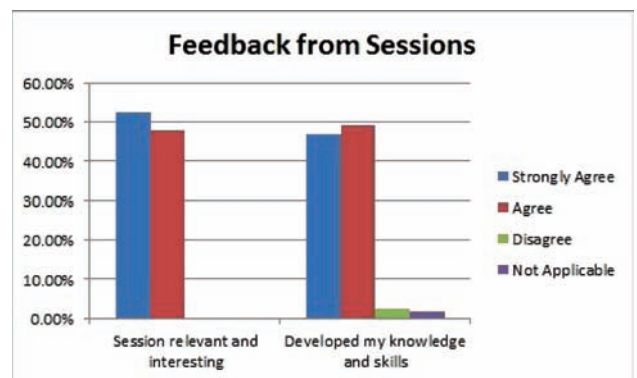


Fig 1. Feedback from sessions.

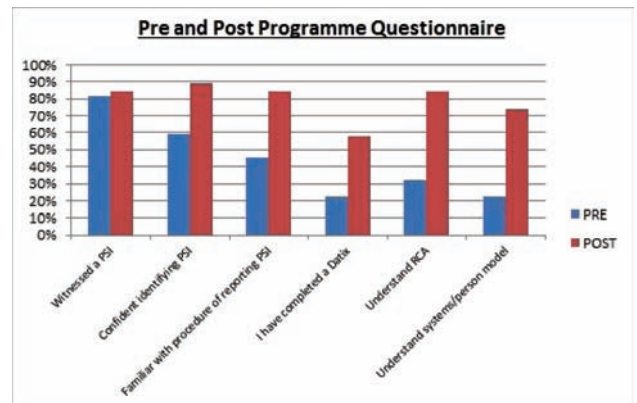


Fig 2. Pre- and post-programme questionnaire.

session, which shows an improved understanding of PSIs and root cause analysis (Fig 2).

Conclusion

The Lessons learnt programme has been successfully integrated into the foundation teaching programme with positive feedback. The sessions provide them with an opportunity to be formally assessed on their teaching skills, by giving a presentation and then leading a discussion with their peers, contributing to their ePortfolio. The programme has also encouraged trainees to

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initiate quality improvement projects following the discussions. We plan to continue the Lessons learnt programme in our trust and expand our pool of facilitators to ensure sustainability. ■

Conflict of interest statement

None declared.