Abstracts

THE SWINBURNES_SLOT: A CLINIC-BASED SERVICE FOR EVALUATING THE USE OF A PATIENT HELD RECORD

Methodology Using Shropshire Doctors Co-operative Ltd (Shropdoc’s) recorded data we have collated a representative picture of the palliative care practice over a year period from 161 OOOGP patient interactions.

Results 31% of home visits (HV) had documentation of potential reversible factors and out of those 72% were with the patient’s estimated prognosis greater than 48 hours. Infection being the most common (57%) reversible factor, the majority being a lower respiratory tract infection. Overall 5.7% of OOOGP palliative HV’s resulted in hospital admission, however this decreased to 0.6% adjusting for an estimate of the patient’s prognosis to be less than 48 hours. 16% were admitted if the patient had a potentially reversible co-existing condition. 33% of consultations had documentation regarding a continuous subcutaneous infusion (CSCI), 86% of CSCI interventions were made with a prognosis of less than 48 hours. There were CSCI infusion issues requiring an OOOGP 3.4% of the time. Overall anticipatory medications were prescribed 39% of the time.

Conclusion The OOOGP deals with a wide variety of scenarios for a heterogeneous population. The symptoms and treatments instigated are on the most part expected within emergency palliative care. This data begins to quantify and describe the role being performed by OOOGP and has implications for service provision and potentially the necessity of 24 hour specialist palliative provision.

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PALLIATIVE CARE AND THE ACUTE STROKE WARD: NEW BEGINNINGS?

Background Despite advances in managing stroke, death, and severe disability are common outcomes. Many patients unfortunately have profound irreversible damage on a background of multiple co-morbidities. However there is also a group of patients where the extent of irreversibility is unclear and the likelihood of survival may be longer, which leads to complex issues around capacity and decision making, whether clinically assisted nutrition and hydration is appropriate and ongoing symptom management. Difficulties can arise in recognising dying when the trajectory of the disease is not easily predicted.

Method Since May 2016 a member of the palliative care team has attended the board round on the acute stroke ward on a weekly basis to provide direct advice or take referrals while discussing all ward patients.

Results Over 12 months the palliative care team was involved in the care of 37 patients. The average Karnofsky Performance Score (KPS) of patients seen was 20. 57% referrals were related to managing patients in the last few days of life with 76% needing advice regarding symptom management. Nearly a third of referrals involved supporting the team in appropriate decision making around escalation of care in particular use of artificial feeding in patients who lack capacity.

Conclusions Stroke patients do have palliative care needs. The acute stroke team valued having regular input from the specialist palliative care team in particular with regard to recognising and managing the last few days of life and help in decision making around long term feeding in patients with an uncertain prognosis who lacked capacity. Funding has been approved to develop this work further with a pilot project enabling a palliative care CNS to have designated time to work on the general stroke wards from 2018.

EVALUATION OF THE USE OF A PATIENT HELD RECORD IN SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE

Introduction The Royal College of GPs in Northern Ireland created a Patient Held Record (PHR) for patients with progressive, life-limiting illness and their families. This study evaluates its usefulness in the specialist palliative care context.

Methods A prospective longitudinal cohort study through a hospice community service. Patients were given questionnaires with the passport and after 4–6 weeks. Hospice Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) completed a questionnaire and focus group after 8 months.

Results From September 2016–June 2017, 550 patients were screened, 347 (63.1%) were offered a passport and 259