Abstracts

P-187 **THIS IS ME: LIVING WELL** – AN INTEGRATIVE DAY THERAPY UNIT PATIENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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**Background** 'Patient education is the process by which others impart information to patients and carers that will alter their health behaviours' (Doak, Doak, & Root, 1996). The results of a quality improvement project highlighted that patients wanted more learning opportunities whilst attending the unit. We explored and instigated a comprehensive patient and carers’ education programme.

**Aims** To increase the physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety of patients and carers who attend the hospice day therapy unit (DTU) by providing a continually evaluated 12-week education programme.


**Results** May 2017 to April 2018: Programmes 1–4. 165 sessions delivered. 963 total patient attendance. 304 total carer sessions delivered. 963 total patient attendance. (44 from the In-patient Unit/Clinical Nurse Specialist team) 304 total carer attendance.

**User feedback** 86.9% scored 5/6 (very good/excellent) for the sessions. 83% agreed/strongly agreed the programme has improved their confidence and self-esteem. 92% would recommend this programme to others. An external volunteer researcher is independently evaluating the programme. Preliminary analysis completed.

**Conclusion** The evaluation evidence highlights the positive contribution that the programme has made to patients’ lives; increasing valuable knowledge and enabling a more confident approach to their palliative journey. Other issues: restricted times to assess patients during the day, no alternative option for those not well enough to be active in the teaching; and emotive topics being discussed when some patients were feeling vulnerable. Links were also strengthened with external organisation educators enabling collaboration on additional patient focused projects.

P-188 **CHANGES AND NEW INITIATIVES IN DAY THERAPY, OFFERING PATIENT CHOICE AND PERSONALISED SESSIONS**

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**Background** LOROS Day Therapy has recently extended the services that it offers to patients. This paper will outline the three services that Day Therapy is offering, including examples of the wellbeing sessions being offered at each service.

**Aim** To showcase Day therapy and the additional services now being offered and how this has helped to transformed care.

Method By offering three different branches to the Day Therapy service:

1. ‘Traditional’ Day Therapy days currently being offered four days per week. Clinical referrals accepted for symptom control, social isolation following diagnosis and a day’s respite for carers.
   - Holistic nurse assessment by a Registered Nurse
   - Support and the giving of information through a programme of wellbeing sessions (e.g. managing fatigue, falls prevention, mindfulness)
   - Clinical procedures
   - Creative work
   - Complementary therapy
   - Occupational therapy and physiotherapy
   - Social interaction.

2. 10 session ‘Therapeutic programme’ currently offered one day a fortnight aimed for those patients that need support emotionally and psychologically as a result of their diagnosis.
   - Psychological support with a Registered nurse
   - Specifically tailored wellbeing programme aimed at supporting these patients emotionally and psychologically. (e.g.: advance care planning, anxiety/mood management)
   - Holistic nurse assessment
   - Chaplaincy
   - Complementary therapy
   - Relaxation.

3. ‘Drop in’ Day Therapy sessions running one day a fortnight.
   - No clinical referral required, patients and carers can ‘drop in’. This is a social model, run by volunteers with no clinical input.
   - A programme of wellbeing sessions i.e. flower arranging, cake decorating, visualisation sessions
   - Creative and craft work
   - Complementary therapy
   - Supported by volunteer bereavement support worker
   - Group and peer support.

**Outcomes** All referrals made into Day Therapy are triaged to the service making the most sense for their requirements. Feedback and patient evaluation will be quoted on the finished poster.

P-189 **MAKING CONNECTIONS: THE SHARED BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THERAPY-LED WELLBEING GROUPS**

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**Background** LOROS Hospice provides a day therapy service to 150 patients who attend fortnightly, with access to many services. Within the developing day therapy provision, the occupational therapists, physiotherapists and therapy assistants facilitate ‘Wellbeing sessions’ designed to deliver education on a range of topics. Whilst the content of the sessions is informative and educational for patients, the therapists have noticed a growth in the sharing of patient experiences and the positive effect this has on self-esteem, confidence and a sense of cohesiveness. Following a literature search, it is apparent that evidence demonstrating the benefits of therapy-led wellbeing groups in hospices is limited.
Aims To promote the importance of sharing experiences from a patient perspective. To promote therapy-led groups in hospices and perceived patient benefits.

Methods Therapists and therapy assistants facilitate wellbeing groups to promote self-management of symptoms. Topics include mindfulness, managing breathlessness, falls prevention, managing fatigue, anxiety management and relaxation (Royal College of Occupational Therapists, 2011). Whilst education was the initial driver for sessions, patients have provided narrative feedback which indicates deeper psychological and emotional benefits. Verbal feedback was gathered by facilitators on an informal basis at the end of sessions and recorded in writing.

Results Patients identified making connections with others they had not spoken to before in day therapy. The sessions provided space for new conversations and offered reflective time. Patients identified that sharing their frustrations within the group felt therapeutic and cathartic. Peer support was found to be invaluable in helping individuals to manage their palliative condition.

Conclusion/recommendations Wellbeing groups will continue in the day therapy programme at LOROS as patients benefit from being able to share their experiences with their peers. Therapists will share the above findings with colleagues and explore ways of facilitating groups for the wider patient group who may not attend day therapy.

P-190 TRANSFORMING PALLIATIVE DAY SERVICES TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND QUALITY FOR PATIENTS, CARERS AND STAFF

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Background Pressures on hospice resources are ever increasing and innovative approaches to service provision are needed to meet demand in a timely manner while maintaining a quality service (National Palliative and End of Life Care Partnership, 2015; National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2017). Following service feedback and literature review we reconfigured day services to run a closed self-management group for patients with fatigue, anxiety and breathlessness, to create capacity and enhance patient experience (Galdas, Fell, Bower et al., 2015; Bradley, Frizelle & Johnson, 2011; Low, Perry & Wilkinson, 2005). We are evaluating the effect of this on patient satisfaction and service delivery.

Aims Evaluate effectiveness of service transformation from individual breathlessness management clinics to the delivery of closed, interdisciplinary, mixed diagnosis, self-management groups for patients and carers.

Methods October to December 2016: Literature review, feedback analysis, service review, model design, internal consultation, marketing and recruitment, patient information pack created. January 2017: Pilot group. February 2017: Commenced delivery of FAB group. IPOS was used as an outcome measure alongside a non-standardised patient feedback form. Early 2018: Results were analysed after one year of repeated programmes.

Results Increase in patient contact hours from 80 to 441 hours annually, 220.5 hours per staff member, a 176% increase. Broadened service provision to address more diverse conditions, with a 125% increase in contact time per patient. Interdisciplinary working enabled staff up-skilling and multi-professional support for patients. Qualitative feedback (non-standardised form): 100% positive from patients, carers and partner organisations/referrers. Quantitative feedback (IPOS): limited and biased due to attrition and response shift. ‘Views on care’ was added following one year analysis, as a further evaluation tool.

Conclusions Interdisciplinary groupwork offers many benefits to service users and palliative care providers in terms of expanding service provision and enhancing patient experience within limited resources. Quantitative outcome measurement in educative palliative care programmes is problematic and evaluation of tools from the OACC suite is ongoing.