

SDPBRN Research Audit Portfolio Project

Evaluating the safety climate in NHS primary care dental practice in Scotland: Pilot study

Research audit category	Category B – Practice-based dental research projects conducted by Higher Education Institutions or NHS Health Boards
Funding body	Not applicable
Award reference number	Not applicable
Dental care quality dimension(s)	Safe care
Project Details	
Background	<p>Improving patient safety using scientifically informed improvement methods is a key objective of the NHS in Scotland. An important component of this is the development of tools to support a strong and positive safety climate within the health care setting. However, much of the scientific research and tools developed to measure and improve safety climate have been developed in the USA for use in the acute hospital setting and it cannot be assumed that the findings will be generalisable to primary care in NHS Scotland.</p> <p>In Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has researched and developed a validated safety climate questionnaire specifically designed for use by primary care teams. This questionnaire is now established within the primary medical care setting and has been evaluated and adapted for use in community pharmacy.</p> <p>The NES safety climate questionnaire is currently being evaluated and adapted for use in the primary care dental setting. The overall aim of this project is to pilot the dental version of NES's safety climate questionnaire to assess its acceptability, reliability and validity as a safety climate improvement tool in primary dental care.</p>
Research question(s) relating to quality dimension	Can the NES dental safety climate questionnaire support primary care dental teams measure and improve the safety climate in their practice?
Primary outcome(s) relating to quality dimension(s)	<p>Acceptability - response rates; questionnaire items completed; participant views of content, structure and format of questionnaire.</p> <p>Reliability – scale consistency.</p> <p>Validity - construct validity.</p>
Secondary outcome(s) relating to quality dimension(s)	Participants' views of the usefulness of the questionnaire for measuring safety climate and identifying areas for improvement.
Design	Cross sectional survey
Setting	Primary care dental practices in Scotland
Participants	All members of the primary care practice dental team
Number of dentist participants	100 dental practices invited to participate approximately 300 dentists
Research audit activities	<p>Dentists and members of their dental team will complete the dental safety climate questionnaire in relation to the safety climate in their practice. Aspects of safety climate which will be measured include; workload, communication, leadership, teamwork and safety systems. Each practice will submit their completed surveys to NES for collation and reporting of results.</p> <p>When the practice receives its results summary, the practice will hold a meeting to discuss the findings. The discussion is intended to support dental teams reflect on their perceptions of the safety climate in their practice. This will include reflection on how the perceptions of different staff groupings diverge, if appropriate. Areas for improvement will be identified and action plans agreed.</p>

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Reflective activity	The reflective activity integrates with and builds on the research audit activity practice meeting by requiring dentists and their dental teams to reflect on safety climate factors and the practice teams' perceptions of these in their practice. This will include reflection on how the perceptions of different staff groupings diverge, if appropriate. Areas for improvement will be identified and action plans agreed. In addition, dentists wishing to claim audit hours will complete individual reflective reports.
Anticipated start date	November 2014
Anticipated end date	May 2015
Project Status	Ongoing
Contacts	
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Date adopted onto SDPBRN Research Audit Portfolio	
November 2014	