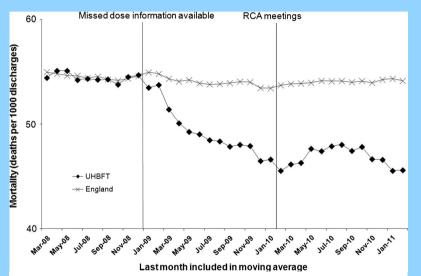
CLAHRC BITE Brokering Innovation Through Evidence

A bite-sized summary of a piece of research supported by CLAHRC for Birmingham and Black Country October 2012



Time series plot of 12-month moving average mortality rates for England (crosses) and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (diamonds).

Trust intervention points labelled.

RCA: Root Cause Analysis

A quality improvement programme focusing on error reduction; a single centre naturalistic study

Focusing on error reduction

Background

- Patients do not always get the medications they have been prescribed. This can have adverse consequences, for example in the case of frail patients who need to maintain antibiotic concentrations to overcome severe infections.
- An audit of missed medication doses in University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust showed that 15% of doses were omitted.
- The data was collected using the Prescribing Information and Communication System (PICS).

Action taken

- A system of active feedback was implemented in which senior managers met nursing staff on the ward.
- The reasons for failure to administer medicine were explored. Staff were asked to propose solutions to the problems and were challenged to reduce the incidence of missed doses through the Root Cause Analysis (RCA) meetings.

Turn over to find out more

Findings

- The intervention was effective, as shown in the graph on the other side.
- There was a step change in the proportion of missed doses and hospital mortality rates fell at the same time.
- A 16.2% reduction in local mortality rate was demonstrated compared to static mortality rates throughout England.
- Although we cannot be sure this was cause and effect, we plan further controlled studies in other hospitals to further improve on practice and to see whether the effects on mortality can be replicated.





Recommendations for practice "There is strong evidence that the timely administration of antibiotics is associated with reduced mortality, and so it is plausible that our reported improvements in antibiotic administration rates have impacted here."

What is CLAHRC for Birmingham & Black Country?

The Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) is a partnership between the University of Birmingham and a number of NHS organisations in Birmingham and Black Country. We are funded by the National Institute for Health Research with a mission to undertake high-quality applied health research focused on the needs of patients to improve health services locally and beyond.

For further information, visit: www.clahrc-bbc.nihr.ac.uk

The research was funded by the National Institute for Health Research. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

References

Rosser D, Cowley NJ, Ray D, Nightingale PG, Jones T, Moore J, Coleman JJ. Quality improvement programme, focusing on error reduction: a single center naturalistic study. **JRSM Short Rep.** 2012;3:36.

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