



Royal College of General Practitioners Midland Faculty
Annual Education, Research and Innovation Symposium
Thursday 18th April 2024

Ref 2

Abstract Submission Form

PRESENTER'S DETAILS					
Title (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss) Ms		First Name Alice		Surname Roberts	
Department or organisation name Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick					
Category (please select)					
Audit	Research	Education Project		Quality Improvement	
Presentation Preference (please select)					
I prefer an oral presentation only		I prefer a poster or poster presentation only		I have no presentation preferences	X
PRESENTATION DETAILS (max 300 words in total not including title or authors)					
Names of Authors Alice Roberts			Title of Study Sexual Violence Training for Medical Students: A Pilot		
I am a student and wish to be considered for the student prize					Yes No
Background – What's the problem you are tackling? The prevalence of sexual violence is high, particularly among women and LGBTQ+ people. Over 1 in 4 adult women experience sexual violence in their lifetime ¹ . In 2013, the World Health Organisation published clinical guidelines on sexual violence, strongly recommending that, as a minimum, all healthcare professionals receive training on providing first-line support to survivors of sexual violence ² . Despite this, very few doctors receive specialist training on how to communicate with survivors of sexual violence. Research into survivors' experiences shows dissatisfaction with healthcare encounters ³ .					

Method

How did/will you do it?

This project aimed to design and pilot test bespoke training for medical students, with the aim of increasing their awareness of sexual violence and their confidence in supporting survivors. A training course was designed, in consultation with experts from a rape crisis centre, and piloted on 15 medical students. Participants completed an online workbook, followed by an in-person interactive session delivered by a professional rape crisis trainer. The 1hr45 interactive session encouraged reflection on material from the workbook, and included skills practice where students role-played patient survivors, clinicians, and observers. A pre- and post-training questionnaire was used to evaluate the training against learning outcomes.

Results (if applicable)

What did you find?

All respondents reported an increase in confidence in asking about sexual violence and responding to disclosures (from 3/10 to 8/10). Respondents' knowledge also significantly improved, particularly about services available for survivors.

Discussion

Why does this matter?

This pilot shows the potential for expert-delivered training to increase medical students' awareness of sexual violence, and confidence in supporting patient survivors. Providing this training for medical students ensures they are prepared to support patient survivors that they will encounter in their training, given the high prevalence of sexual violence. The training will be trialled in the curriculum for all second-year medical students in June 2024, with further evaluation planned.

References:

- 1: Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 23 March 2023, ONS website, article, [Sexual offences prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2022](#)
- 2: World Health Organization. (2013). Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines. World Health Organization.
- 3: Caswell RJ, Ross JD, Lorimer K. Measuring experience and outcomes in patients reporting sexual violence who attend a healthcare setting: a systematic review. *Sex Transm Infect.* 2019 Sep;95(6):419-427.

Please return this form by e-mail to wmcg2024@warwick.ac.uk

Closing date Monday 26th February 2024