

SDPBRN Research Audit Portfolio Project

Dental Safety Climate Survey

Research audit category	Category D – National, practice-based, dental quality improvement initiatives that include a reflective research component.
Funding body	Not applicable
Award reference number	Not applicable
Dental care quality dimension(s)	Safe care
Research Audit Hours Awarded	Awarded 3 hours
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 use of tools to support a strong and positive safety climate within the health care setting.</p> <p>In Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has researched and developed a validated safety climate questionnaire (GP SafeQuest) 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 the community pharmacy and primary dental care settings.</p> <p>The overall aim of this project is to support primary care practices complete Dental SafeQuest and implement action plans for improving safety in the dental practice setting. Dental SafeQuest is intended to enable practices to measure the safety climate in their own dental setting and reflect on any improvement required. This project will contribute to determining the reliability and validity of SafeQuest as a safety climate improvement tool in primary dental care.</p>
Research question(s) relating to quality dimension	Can the Dental SafeQuest questionnaire support primary care dental teams to measure and improve the safety climate in their practice?
Primary outcome(s) relating to quality dimension(s)	Participation in practice meeting; development and implementation of action plans to improve safety climate.
Secondary outcome(s) relating to quality dimension(s)	Acceptability - response rates; questionnaire items completed; participant views of content, structure, format and usefulness of questionnaire.
Design	Cross sectional online survey.
Setting	Primary care dental practices in Scotland.
Participants	All members of the primary care dental team.
Number of dentist participants	

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Research audit activities	<p>Dentists and other members of the 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; the workload environment, communication, leadership, teamwork and safety systems and learning. Each staff member will submit their completed questionnaires 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>
Reflective activity	<p>The reflective activity integrates with and builds on the research audit practice meeting activity by requiring dentists and their dental teams to reflect on safety climate factors and the practice team's 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.</p>
Anticipated start date	Staggered start dates after 01/05/2017
Anticipated end date	
Project Status	In progress
Contacts	
Chief Investigator	Linda Young
Organisation	NHS Education for Scotland
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Date adopted onto SDPBRN Research Audit Portfolio	
	01 May 2017