



Digital Clinical Decision Support to Drive Quality Improvement in Patients with Multiple Conditions

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Introduction

One in three adults have two or more illnesses. However, healthcare professional education and clinical decision support has traditionally focussed on patients with single conditions. In light of this, our clinical decision support resource (BMJ Best Practice) now has an additional tool - the BMJ Best Practice Comorbidities Manager. This short paper describes the results of an evaluation to find out to what extent this resource does help to improve care and also if there were barriers to improvement.

Methods

We carried out a simple pilot survey of resident doctors who were users of the resource to find out if they used the resource to learn and/or improve care and if so how they did this.

Results

25 resident doctors completed the survey. 19 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that using BMJ Best Practice Comorbidities helped them learn how to care for patients with multiple illnesses. 20 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that using BMJ Best Practice Comorbidities helped them put their learning into practice to improve care for patients. All the doctors were based in the UK. BMJ Best Practice helped clinicians balance treatments across acute and chronic conditions, taking account of frailty and mental health conditions, while avoiding interactions and harm. It also supported safer, more personalised care by bringing evidence together in one place, guiding prioritisation, quality improvement, and shared decision making with patients. 11 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they faced barriers to putting their learning into practice. Barriers to improving care included the following: access issues - such as lack of internet or Wi-Fi; not all comorbidities were covered in the resource; local protocols still needed to be followed; and the need to get senior sign-off for important decisions.

Discussion

This pilot survey of resident doctors gives us evidence that most residents use the resource to learn and improve care for patients with multiple conditions.

References

BMJ Best Practice <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/info/>

Accuracy and Effects of Clinical Decision Support Systems Integrated With BMJ Best Practice-Aided Diagnosis: Interrupted Time Series Study. *JMIR Med Inform.* 2020 Jan 20;8(1):e16912.

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Competing interests

KW works for BMJ