



The IPCRG's teach the teacher programme: An educational initiative to promote improved management of difficult to manage asthma

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Abstract

The IPCRG is a network of organisations committed to improving primary care assessment and treatment of chronic respiratory disease. We developed an evidence-based resource, SIMPLES (Ryan D, et al. Prim Care Respir J 2013;22:365-73) to aid structured asthma review for difficult to manage asthma. An educational initiative was introduced to disseminate research findings from U-BIOPRED and promote improved primary care management. We aimed to support participants from seven European countries to design and plan local programmes of education:teaching clinical colleagues key messages about difficult to manage asthma, encouraging local adaptation of existing IPCRG resources. These took place in autumn 2015 involving over 230 health professionals - including early career and GPs with a special interest in asthma/COPD, specialist nurses and others. We proposed an evaluation framework(Guskey,T.Teachers&Teaching 2002;8:3, 381-391) which includes - i) participant reaction, ii) learning, iii) organisational changes, iv) use of new knowledge and v) impact on practice and service users. Programmes were well received by participants. There were many challenges encountered: in assessing local learning needs, setting up education programmes and supporting clinical practice change. The impact on participants' clinical practice and service users is more challenging to demonstrate and will require more time to evaluate. We reflect on the challenge of meaningful evaluation of practice change. These insights are important in thinking about the design, implementation and evaluation of clinical educational programmes globally.

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