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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We recommend

- The quest for the grail: multidimensional efforts for understanding and targeting severe asthma. Mina Gaga et al., European Respiratory Journal
- A guide to the translation of the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) strategy into improved care. Louis-Philippe Boulet et al., European Respiratory Journal
- The era of research collaborations: new models for working together. Ratko Djukanović et al., European Respiratory Journal
- Supported self-management for asthma. Hilary Pinnock, Breathe
- Resource-stratified implementation of a community-based breast cancer management programme in Peru. Catherine Duggan et al., The Lancet Oncology
- The implementation of the Plan Esperanza and response to the imPACT Review. Tatiana Vidaurre et al., The Lancet Oncology
- Standards for Reporting Implementation Studies (StaRI) Statement. Hilary Pinnock, The BMJ
- Establishment of ethical oversight of human research in El Salvador: lessons learned. Miguela A Caniza et al., The Lancet Oncology
- The windtunnel test. Mr John Ratcliffe, Structural Survey