An Exploration Of Factors Impacting Upon The Recruitment Of Participants To Research Studies In Wound Care

The Community Nurses’ Perspective

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Background

• Wound care makes up a large proportion of community nursing work in the UK

• Research into wound care is increasing

• NHS Constitution pledge to patients…. ‘to inform you of research studies in which you may be eligible to participate’ (pledge) p.8.

(The NHS Constitution, 2013, Department of Health. Great Britain)

• Community nurses are essential to the recruitment process for wound care

Reference-
Aims and Objectives

Aim-
- to determine the factors that community nurses’ consider, within their role, when assisting with the process of recruitment of participants to wound care studies.

Objective-
- to gain greater understanding of the factors, relating to community nurses, which facilitate and hinder the recruitment of participants to wound care studies.
Method

• Qualitative approach
  – Classic grounded theory methodology
    (Glaser and Strauss 1967)
  • Sampling
  • Semi-structured interviews
  • Analysis- emergent themes
    (NVIVO 10)

• Permissions
  – Ethical (SHREC/RP/353),
  – Local Research and Development

References-
NVIVO 10 qualitative data analysis software; QSR International Pty Ltd. Version 10. 2012.
Themes

Theme 1: Knowing the impact of research studies

Theme 2: Knowing about the patients

Theme 3: Knowing about the research team

Theme 4: Knowing about the study
Theme 1 - Knowing about the impact of research studies

- Personal sense of having ‘done their bit’
- Research encourages inclusion and increase individual's self-esteem
- ‘You’re using it all the time’
- Research needed to ‘move the service on’
- Increasing job satisfaction and improving recruitment and retention rates
- ‘not having the time, not having a protected time, so that it’s not given relevance’
- Research is ‘part of the role and ethos of a nurse’
- ‘You’re sort of thinking what’s the current evidence for that’
Theme 2 - Knowing about the patient

- ‘Perfect Patient’
- ‘Ability to Communicate’
- ‘Motivation’ and ‘Compliance’
- ‘Interest’ and ‘receptiveness’
- ‘Enthusiasm’
- Nurse patient relationship
- ‘Unwell and/or Frail’
- ‘Complex and Multiple needs’
- Social and Environmental Issues
- ‘Frequent Hospitalisation’
- Lack Mental Capacity
- ‘Unwell and/or Frail’
Theme 3 - Knowing about the research team

Accessibility and Presence

- Face to face information
- Should visit teams
- Attend team meetings

What the Research Nurse does

- Information gatherer and accurate data recorder
- Links with community nurses
- Support and act as a resource

Who they are

- Should be part of the wider team
- Know who they are presenting to the patient
Theme 4 - Knowing about the study

**Study Information**

Value in having study information before, during and after

Disagreement about the clarity of study information - ‘I think mostly they were clear’

Shared via formal routes - cascaded at team meetings, handovers, ‘word of mouth’

**Keeping It Current**

‘helpful to keep it current cos you might be enthusiastic about it for a week and then forget’

Conflicting priorities mean that the study could be ‘forgotten’

Study Reminders - ‘posters’, ‘phone calls’

**Understanding The Study**

Full explanation for clarity and understanding

Reasoning behind the study, it’s intentions and benefits for patients

One to one explanations
Strengths and Limitations

• Strengths of the study
  – Purposeful sampling

• Limitations of the study
  – Transferability?

• Hidden population
  – Prospective participants not on screening logs
Conclusions

• Clinical nurses working in a research-active community organisation were positive about participating in research.

• Research was viewed as a ‘fair weather ‘activity”

• Concept of the ‘perfect patient’ is likely to:
  – Create a hidden population of patients
  – Limit recruitment
  – Contravene the NHS Constitution pledge for access to research
  – Impact on the transferability and generalisability of study results.
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