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A feasibility study of Sheffield Profile for Assessment and Referral for Care (SPARC): a holistic needs assessment questionnaire

Submission date
04/05/2011

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
05/07/2011

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
29/03/2022

Condition category
Cancer

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org/trials/a-study-testing-questionnaire-work-out-care-needs-people-using-supportive-or-palliative-care-service-sheffield-sparc-feasibility

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
NA

Study information

Scientific Title
A feasibility study of an holistic needs assessment questionnaire in a supportive and palliative care service using the Sheffield Profile for Assessment and Referral for Care (SPARC)

Acronym
SPARC

Study objectives
The Academic Unit of Supportive Care is undertaking a research study about holistic needs assessment. We are carrying out a study with patients referred for supportive or palliative care, to learn if using the SPARC questionnaire improves their care.

The study aims are:
1. To determine the effect of holistic needs assessment on health related quality of life and self identified concerns in patients referred for supportive and palliative care
2. To determine the effect of holistic needs assessment on interventions, consultations and referrals within supportive and palliative care
3. To measure the difference at baseline assessment between patients identified as cancer survivors, those living with a long term condition and those receiving end of life care, in terms of their concerns, quality of life and need for supportive or palliative care
4. We hope to learn if using SPARC makes a difference in quality of life, and in referrals for help; whether it makes a difference how early on it is used, and whether the experience is different for different groups of patients

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Bradford Research Ethics Committee, REC ref: 10/H1302/88 - approval pending as of 05/05/2011

Study design
Randomised waiting list controlled trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Study type(s)
Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
All patients (cancer and non cancer) referred to the service

Interventions
1. The study will be carried out with in-patients, out-patients and in community settings, to assess whether using the SPARC tool makes a difference to symptoms and concerns, quality of life, needs identified, and being referred for help.
2. SPARC is a multidimensional screening tool which gives a profile of needs to identify patients who may benefit from additional supportive or palliative care, regardless of diagnosis or stage of disease
3. SPARC is intended for use by primary care, hospital teams or other services to improve patient management, either by current professional carers or by referral to a specialist team

4. It covers:
4.1. Physical and psychological symptoms
4.2. Spiritual issues
4.3. Activities/independence
4.4. Family, social and treatment issues
5. Its aim is to identify patients who could benefit from additional supportive or palliative care
6. We will use SPARC in addition to the usual care that people receive
7. Some patients will complete the questionnaire straightaway, others will receive it after a period of two weeks
8. For everyone, care will continue as normal
9. The responses given on the SPARC questionnaire will be followed up by one of the usual care team to ensure that needs identified are addressed
10. Participants will fill in three short research questionnaires as part of the study, repeated after two weeks, four weeks and six weeks
11. Once people have opted to participate in the study, they will be allocated either to the group receiving SPARC straight away, or to the group which receives it after two weeks (randomly decided)
12. A small group of participants will be invited to take part in interviews

Intervention Type
Other

Phase
Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)
1. The difference in score between the patient Measure Yourself Concerns and Wellbeing (MYCAW) on the patient self-scoring visual analogue scale at baseline and the two-week follow up
2. Assuming the changes in the score (baseline to week 2) are normally distributed, a t-test will be carried out to test the null hypothesis that the difference between the intervention and control groups in the mean score on the first symptom nominated on the scale at baseline and two weeks is zero
3. To detect a medium difference between two independent sample means requires a minimum of 64 individuals in each group with scores at baseline and two weeks (Cohen, 1992). Therefore, a total of 128 patients will have to be recruited.
4. In order collect both baseline and follow-up data from 128 patients, 500 patients will be recruited to the study, assuming that approximately one quarter will be able to participate at the two-week follow-up.
5. The calculation for the sample size has taken account of the attrition to be expected in this population overall, although with varied survival rates, we can also expect to recruit sufficient numbers of patients able to give useable follow-up data. The statistical analysis will therefore be predominantly descriptive, with correlations drawn between specific demographic and medical variables with SPARC scores.

Key secondary outcome(s))
1. The change in scores in the EQ-5D at the two time points
2. Changes in the enablement scores (PEI) at the two time points
3. Comparisons will be made between the intervention group and the waiting list control
4. Outcomes in patients entering the service in different ways, as inpatients where input is requested, as inpatients on the Palliative Care Unit, and as outpatients, will be explored

5. The pattern of actions taken and referrals made as a result of the SPARC screening tool will be examined, by analysis of the clinical record
6. Comparisons will be made regarding MYCAW patient nominated concerns, EQ-5D, and the PEI at baseline between patient groups (long term conditions, cancer survivors, and people needing end of life care)

Completion date
30/07/2012

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Any diagnosis (cancer and non-cancer)
2. Any referral to the service
3. Patients 18 years old or above
4. Patients able to give informed consent

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
225

Key exclusion criteria
1. Incapable of giving informed consent
2. Incapable of completing SPARC even with the help of a relative or informal carer
3. Under 18 years old

Date of first enrolment
01/01/2010

Date of final enrolment
30/07/2012

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
University of Sheffield
Sheffield
United Kingdom
S11 9NE

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Sheffield (UK)

ROR
https://ror.org/05krs5044

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Macmillan Cancer Support (UK)

Funder Name
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
Not provided at time of registration

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?

Results article	results	01/11/2015		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Plain English results		31/01/2017	29/03/2022	No	Yes