

Assessing effectiveness of an e-learning tool to aid junior doctor management of febrile children

Submission date 08/08/2012	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 09/08/2012	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 04/04/2016	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

There are many educational programmes aimed at improving the clinical practice of health care professionals. A number of these programmes are delivered using an online platform (eLearning). Determining how beneficial they are is difficult as measuring how well someone is learning is often based on opinion. In this study, a group of junior doctors will undertake an online learning package focusing on dealing with young children with fever. They will all have various aspects of their practice assessed by questionnaire, knowledge testing and direct observation of their consultations. These methods will be analysed to decide which is most suitable for deciding whether the learning package is useful. The aim of this study is to create a system to test the effectiveness of e-learning packages for health care professionals.

Who can participate?

Junior doctors in their first or second year.

What does the study involve?

Participants are asked to complete an online questionnaire and a knowledge test based on video clips of potentially unwell children in the next week. They are then be given access to an e-learning package which will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. This can be undertaken at work or at home. On completion they will be asked to repeat the questionnaire and knowledge test.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Participants benefit from receiving individual feedback about their results and given the opportunity to discuss their experiences. There are no risks involves with taking part in this study.

Where is the study run from?

University of Leicester (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
August 2012 to February 2013

Who is funding the study?
National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Damian Roland

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
11696

Study information

Scientific Title
REfining evaluation Methodologies for InTerventions that change practice (REMIT): A model to assess the effectiveness of an e-learning tool in improving the management of febrile children by junior doctors

Acronym
REMIT

Study objectives
There are many educational programmes aimed at improving the clinical practice of health care professionals. A number of these programmes are delivered via information technology systems and described as e-Learning. Determining how beneficial they are is difficult as educational outcomes are not always objective or easily measurable.

This study will create a system to test the effectiveness of e-learning packages for health care professionals. A group of junior doctors will undertake an online learning package on dealing with young children with fever. They will all have various aspects of their practice assessed by questionnaire, knowledge testing and direct observation of their consultations.

These methods will be analysed to decide which is most suitable for deciding whether the learning package is useful.

More details can be found at <http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/Search/StudyDetail.aspx?StudyID=11696>

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

NRES Committee East Midlands 1, 02 June 2011 ref: 11/EM/0186

Study design

Non-randomised interventional trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Injuries and Emergencies, Paediatrics, Critical Care

Interventions

There are many educational programmes aimed at improving the clinical practice of health care professionals. A number of these programmes are delivered via information technology systems and described as e-Learning. Determining how beneficial they are is difficult as educational outcomes are not always objective or easily measurable. This study will create a system to test the effectiveness of e-learning packages for health care professionals. A group of junior doctors will undertake an online learning package on dealing with young children with fever. They will all have various aspects of their practice assessed by questionnaire, knowledge testing and direct observation of their consultations. These methods will be analysed to decide which is most suitable for deciding whether the learning package is useful.

The e-learning package involves viewing a selection of short video clips which describe the components of the NICE Feverish illness in Children Traffic Light Table. They undertake this exercise (lasts no more than hour) following the pre-questionnaire and test within 2 weeks of starting their new attachment in the Emergency Department. Following completion of the e-learning package they undertake a post-intervention questionnaire and assessment. The e-learning package and questionnaire can be completed at home or at work.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Participant satisfaction is measured using a validated online questionnaire at baseline and following completion of the e-learning package

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Participant behaviour measured using a guideline adherence matrix at baseline and following completion of the e-learning package
2. Participant knowledge measured using an online test at baseline and following completion of the e-learning package

Completion date

01/02/2013

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

For Focus Group:
Junior Doctor ST2 or below

For observation pilot testing and main study:

Although the children are not being studied directly themselves the observation of a doctors performance will be on children less than 5 years old who present with a fever or parent reported history of a fever.; Male and female participants
Aged 18 - 60 years

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Junior doctor in possession of any part of the MRCPCH

Date of first enrolment

02/08/2012

Date of final enrolment

03/03/2013

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

University of Leicester

Leicester

United Kingdom

LE1 5WW

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Leicester

ROR

<https://ror.org/04h699437>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowship (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

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

[Results article](#)

04/11/2015

Yes

No