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The development of an online advance care planning resource for nursing homes during a COVID-19 outbreak

Submission date
06/05/2021

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
19/05/2021

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
15/08/2022

Condition category
Infections and Infestations

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

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Since nursing home residents are at substantial risk from COVID-19, nursing home care staff need to know what residents would want to happen should they become infected with COVID-19. The aim of this project is to develop and evaluate advance care planning COVID-centric online training and information resources for nursing home staff and family members to improve care at the end of life during a COVID-19 outbreak.

Who can participate?
Registered nurses and health care assistants working in nursing homes in the United Kingdom. Family members aged 18 years and older who are involved in the care of a resident in participating nursing homes.

What does the study involve?
This study involves the development and evaluation of an online COVID-centric advance care planning intervention. Findings from a rapid review of advance care planning resources will be used to develop the intervention for nursing homes. To evaluate the intervention, nursing home staff will be asked to participate in training and family members asked to review information via the online resource. Participants will be asked to take part in an interview prior to and 1-week following the implementation of the intervention.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Participating in this study may enhance knowledge and support advance care planning discussions in the context of COVID-19 with residents and their families. Participants may feel emotional. If this happens, participants can stop their involvement in the study at any point.

Where is the study run from?
Queens University Belfast (UK) is managing this study.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
From June 2020 to August 2021.

Who is funding the study?
This project is co-funded by The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of the UK Research and Innovation's rapid response to COVID-19 and The Health and Social Care Research & Development Division (HSC R&D Division) of the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

Who is the main contact?
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Contact information

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Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)
286725

Study information

Scientific Title
Necessary discussions: Advance care planning for nursing homes in a COVID-19 outbreak

Study objectives
One way of ensuring that care reflects residents wishes and preferences is to develop an advance care plan. However, critical gaps have been highlighted in research, policy and practice around advance care planning tools, training, and information resources.

The aim of this project is to develop and evaluate an online advance care planning COVID-centric resource for nursing homes during a COVID-19 outbreak to improve care at the end of life.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 08/12/2020, Health and Social Care Research Ethics Committee B (HSC REC B, ORECNI office, Lissue Industrial Estate West, Rathdown Walk, Moira Road, Lisburn, BT28 2RF; +44 (0)28 95361400; RECB@hscni.net), ref: 20/NI/0173

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Multicenter prospective case study design

Study type(s)
Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Care at the end of life during a COVID-19 outbreak

Interventions
An online educational intervention for nursing home staff and family members on advance care planning during a COVID-19 outbreak will be developed. An expert reference group will advise on all aspects of the project and findings from a rapid review of advance care planning resources will be used to develop the intervention.

The intervention will be implemented in three locations across the UK (N. Ireland; England & Scotland). Up to three nursing homes in each location will be recruited. Up to five staff members in each nursing home will complete online training on advance care planning during a COVID-19 outbreak. The training will include the following six units:
1. An introduction to advance care planning in the context of a COVID-19 outbreak
2. Advance care planning in the context of a COVID-19 outbreak
3. How to complete an Advance Care Plan during a COVID-19 outbreak
4 Recording and sharing Advance Care Plans during a COVID-19 outbreak
5. Finding the words: Tips for having necessary discussions
6. Caring for yourself during a COVID-19 outbreak

Family members will review online information on advance care planning during a COVID-19 outbreak, including
1. What is advance care planning?
2. Why is advance care planning important?
3. What might be included in an advance care plan?
4. Who takes part in advance care planning
5. How do I take part in an advance care pla
6. Caring for myself during COVID-19.

Environmental scan interviews will be conducted before the intervention is implemented to identify characteristics and potential barriers and facilitators to implementation. Follow-up interviews will be carried out 1-week post intervention to explore the acceptability of the intervention and its impact.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
Acceptability of advance care planning COVID-centric online training resources and information for nursing home staff and family members measured using interviews carried out 1-week post-intervention

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Barriers and facilitators to implementing an online educational intervention on advance care planning during a COVID-19 outbreak will be measured during pre-intervention interviews
2. The proportion and representativeness of identified nursing home staff and family members who access the online information and the features viewed will be measured using google analytics
3. Impact on knowledge and attitudes towards advance care planning will be explored using feedback forms and post-intervention interviews
4. Intention to participate in advance care planning conversations during a COVID-19 outbreak will be measured during post intervention interviews

Completion date
31/08/2021

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Nursing home staff: Registered nurse or health care assistant.
2. Family members: Aged 18 years or older; Be the individual most involved in the care of the resident; Have access to digital resources.

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
54

Key exclusion criteria
1. Under 18 years of age
2. Do not have access to digital resources

Date of first enrolment
18/02/2021

Date of final enrolment
14/06/2021

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

Northern Ireland

Study participating centre
Queens University Belfast
University Road
Belfast
United Kingdom
BT7 1NN

Sponsor information

Organisation
Queen's University Belfast

ROR
https://ror.org/00hswnk62

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research council

Funder Name
The Economic and Social Research Council as part of the UK Research and Innovation's rapid response to COVID-19

Funder Name
The Health and Social Care Research & Development Division (HSC R&D Division) of the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland

Funder Name
Economic and Social Research Council

Alternative Name(s)
Social Science Research Council, ESRC, SSRC, UKRI ESRC

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name
Public Health Agency

Alternative Name(s)
Public Health Agency (PHA), Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland), HSC Public Health Agency, publichealthni, PHA

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The current data sharing plans for this study are unknown and will be available at a later date

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		13/05/2022	15/08/2022	Yes	No
Protocol article		09/08/2022	15/08/2022	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes