



NI PEAR
Paediatric Education,
Audit & Research Network

NI PEAR: A regional approach to practice

Dr Kathryn Wilson, Dr Maura Scott, Dr Colin Higgins, Dr Diarmuid McLoughlin, Dr Caoimhe Glancy

Problem: Across paediatrics in NI, there are wide variations in clinical practice and no established pathway for the creation of regionally agreed guidelines. An audit of trainees, nurse practitioners and consultants demonstrated a desire to standardise practice, and have easily accessible guidelines and protocols.

Strategy for change

The NI paediatric education, audit and research (NIPEAR) network was created in 2019 to encourage and coordinate trainee led high quality audit and research. Working in conjunction with the Child Health Partnership, we have designed a simplified pathway to allow easy implementation of regional guidelines. A named consultant in each trust disseminates the draft guideline, and once amendments are completed and agreement reached between all trusts, the regional guideline can be published. A website has been created which allows easy access to guidelines, educational resources and details of upcoming training opportunities. Creation of a paediatric research database facilitates collaboration between lead researchers and trainees interested in expanding their experience in this area.

Measurement of Improvement

In our first year; we have created a regional guideline pathway, carried out large scale audits, and created new guidelines. The first two regional guidelines, prolonged jaundice and nephrotic syndrome, allowed trainees an opportunity to partake in regional audit, gain management experience through writing guidelines and present their projects both regionally and nationally. Further guidelines are currently in progress, with expanded opportunities being offered to trainees in the coming year.

Effects of change

By creating a simplified pathway which allows easy implementation of regional guidelines, and a central website where this information can be accessed we are standardising practice and ensuring that all children receive gold standard treatment in a timely manner.

Discussion

The NIPEAR network has demonstrated that a regional approach to quality improvement and guideline creation benefits not only our patient population, but also paediatric trainees, making clinical practice more straightforward and bringing high quality research opportunities. Our website will act as a hub for regional guidelines, educational information and research opportunities, while our twitter account @ni_pear allows collaboration and connection with trainees in NI and across the UK.

