

2012 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

2012 & Beyond

Morning Oral Bites

11:55 – 12:25

Doing it for real: Undertaking clinical audit to enhance knowledge and skills and improve employability

Julie Green, Nursing & Midwifery

Abstract:

This presentation will show how taking students through the activity of undertaking a clinical audit can enhance their learning and provide them with tangible skills for their professional career. Highlighting that 'Doing it for real' through an academic route is an innovative and effective teaching tool.

There is an expectation that healthcare students develop knowledge and skills in the use of clinical audit and for them to utilize those skills effectively when employed. Any learning experience in the clinical area is usually led by a clinical mentor with the students' involvement in audit processes generally being minimal.

To enhance learning and hone their skills members of the final year cohort of student midwives undertakes an audit of a clinical guideline use in the local NHS hospital Trust with guidance from a midwifery lecturer. They are taken through the full audit process; deciding which clinical guideline to audit, designing a proforma and seeing the governance processes through which the activity is given approval.

The group then undertakes a retrospective audit within one day in the clinical area usually achieving audit of approximately 150 sets of casenotes. Examples of clinical audits undertaken include:

- Initiation of Skin to Skin between the mother and infant at birth
- The use of Cardiotocograph monitoring on admission in low risk pregnancies
- Early recognition of severe illness
- Determination of risk factors at the onset of labour.

Linking theory to practice in this way enhances collaborative working, the Trust are supported by having an audit undertaken within a setting when they normally struggle to get enough auditors together due to staffing requirements.

By 'Doing it for real' the students gain first-hand experience of the whole process and see clinical audit as something achievable at a local level and how that informs clinical practice. The outcomes of the learning experience are far reaching and set the student up well for many aspects; enhancing their credibility and experience when going forward to gain employment following graduation.