THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAEDIATRIC METABOLIC OUTREACH CLINIC AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LIMERICK

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Background and aims Paediatric Medicine in Ireland is growing and changing. Care is now being delivered in alliance with the ‘Hub and Spoke’ model of care. Since the introduction of Newborn Screening in Ireland in 1966 there has been an increasing need for metabolic specialist care. The National Centre for Inherited Metabolic Disorders (NCIMD) is located at the Children’s University Hospital, Temple Street and provides care for patients with Inherited Metabolic Disorders (IMDs). Due to the complexity of IMDs, multidisciplinary care is essential and is not only provided via Temple street, but now also through Pediatric Outreach Clinics.

The aim of this study was to describe the establishment of the Pediatric Metabolic Outreach Clinic (PMOC) at University Hospital Limerick (UHL).

Methods We describe the process involved in the establishment of the clinic, its’ location and structure and the type and number of patients seen.

Results Paediatric patients with a formal diagnosis of an IMD or who were under investigation for such a diagnosis residing within the UHL catchment area were offered a review in the MOC in the Paediatric Outpatient Department at UHL in place of one of the reviews at the tertiary centre. The appointments are offered by and at the discretion of the NCIMD on a rotational basis to allow all patients living in Ireland, outreach clinics are paramount for the future care of Paediatric patients. Most importantly, those with IMDs in the Midwest are able to access the highest level of care closer to home.

Conclusion With the increasing demand on Specialist Services and the metabolic specialist, the establishment of the Paediatric Metabolic Outreach Clinic (PMOC) at UHL is an important step forward in terms of patient care and satisfaction.

P352 A PRISM OF SELF-REFLECTION; EXPLORING THE EFFECTS OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE, REST, SOCIAL TIME, AND MINDFULNESS ON STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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Background There is an established body of evidence that medical professionals are at increased risk of poor mental and physical health. This negatively affects the individual practitioner, the healthcare system, and patient outcomes. To date, there have been limited interventional studies in Ireland to improve hospital staff wellbeing.

Study Design Prospective interventional study

Methods Participation was open to all staff in the paediatric department of Cavan General Hospital, a level 2 hospital in rural Ireland. A 10-week Wellness Diary was designed, in which participants recorded their weekly physical exercise, sleep hygiene, social time, and mindfulness practice. Targets for each parameter were provided. The authors organised events and issued weekly motivational emails to help participants meet their targets. The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) and Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) were used to measure stress levels and sleep quality at baseline, Week 5, and Week 10.

Data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel 2011. Spearman coefficient was used to assess for statistically significant correlations between variables.

Results 43 participants were initially enrolled. 29 submitted diaries at Week 5, and 20 submitted at Week 10.

55% of all participants were compliant with physical exercise targets at baseline, which remained unchanged at Week 10.

49% of participants (n= 21) reported PSQI scores of ≤5 (indicative of good quality sleep) at baseline, versus 59% (n= 17) by week 5, and 89% (n=17) by week 10. Of participants who completed the programme, 63% had PSQI scores ≤5 at baseline, 68% by week 5, and 89% by week 10. This correlated weakly with compliance with sleep hygiene targets, though this was not statistically significant.

At baseline, participants reported having enough time for family/personal life 4.88 days of the week. This had increased to 5.05 days of the week by Week 10.

35% of participants (n=15) used weekly mindfulness practice at baseline, versus 66% at Week 5, and 70% at Week 10. Of the participants who completed the programme, mean PSS scores at baseline were 15.7, 15.8 at Week 5, and 13.7 at Week 10. This correlated strongly with increased mindfulness use, though the correlation was not statistically significant.

Conclusions There are a number of limitations to our study. Only 20 participants completed all 10 weeks of the programme, limiting result generalisation. To the authors’ knowledge, this is the first study of its kind in Ireland and its findings may influence future interventions.