Welcome!

Welcome to Issue 2 of the CURE quarterly newsletter. It’s been a busy time since our first issue, and in this issue we report on CURE staff continuing to contribute to important national and international conferences in emergency and urgent care. The newsletter also reports on existing international research projects (Centre TBI) and a new national study (DEUCE). We also would like to welcome Daniel Horner who has recently joined the CURE team. We hope you enjoy this issue and please follow us on Twitter and keep in touch with developments on our CURE website (details at the end of this Newsletter).

Focus On: Centre-TBI

The Collaborative European Neuro-Trauma Effectiveness Research in Traumatic Brain Injury (CENTER-TBI) is a 60 centre EU Framework 7 funded epidemiological study that aims to improve characterisation of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), “the most complex disease in the most complex organ”, utilising biomarkers, genomics, imaging and multidimensional follow up in 5400 TBI patients across 20 European Countries.

Such comparative effectiveness research (CER) is pertinent and timely because novel, tangible evidence is currently lacking for TBI management pathways, despite over 200 randomised trials being conducted in this area.

CURE (Chief Investigator Fiona Lecky) has been charged with the validation work package as part of the CENTER-TBI deliverables. We are collecting TBI registry / routine data across 20 European countries in order to assess the internal and external validity of findings from the CORE 5400 TBI patients, and to inform comparative effectiveness studies.

BMJ Editorial for CURE PPI Group

The Sheffield Emergency Care Forum contributed to an important high profile editorial published recently in the British Medical Journal. SECF members Enid Hirst and Maggie Marsh were co-authors on the piece entitled. The patient’s dilemma: attending the emergency department with a minor illness. It highlighted the international nature of the problem of patients presenting to the ED with such conditions and describes how the uncertainties for both patients and clinicians in managing them mean that in some instances the visit to ED becomes the rational choice. The full editorial can be accessed via the following link.

Professor Fiona Lecky

The project is thus aimed at providing ground-breaking and quality evidence on disease processes, treatment, outcome, and prognosis in TBI as well as discovering revolutionary therapies.

Patients are stratified based on 3 clinical care pathways: 1. Emergency room (ER) stratum; 2. Admission (ADM) stratum; 3. ICU stratum.

If you would like to contact the Centre-TBI team, please email Olubukola Otesile - Research Assistant.

The Centre-TBI website can be found here.
Conferences

Navigator 2017

"Creating and using linked data to assess EMS performance and quality"

Janette Turner did an invited talk at Navigator 2017 at New Orleans. She also visited Salt Lake City with the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch (as part of her study leave) where she talked about our research programmes here and potential collaborations.

British Geriatric Society

Congratulations to Jonny Bunn, Foundation Doctor on an Academic Placement with the CLAHRC Avoiding Attendances and Admissions Theme, who was the recipient of the Elizabeth Brown Prize for best Platform Presentation at the 2017 British Geriatric Society Spring meeting in March. Jonny gave a talk on the Care Pathway for Older People. Congratulations Jonny!

999 EMS Research Forum Conference 2017: The way forward for emergency care research

CURE had a high profile presence at the 999 EMS Research Forum 2017:

- Janette Turner led a workshop on “Preparing Research Proposals” and also presented a talk on the Ambulance Response Programme.
- Jo Coster presented work from the PHOEBE project entitled “Multi-method development of new ambulance service quality and performance measures”.
- Emma Knowles presented on how ambulance service organisational culture might affect ambulance non-conveyance rates.
- Annabel Crum delivered a poster which had been the top scored abstract on: “Creating a linked dataset to explore patient outcomes after leaving ambulance care”.
- Steve Goodacre also delivered a talk on “The way forward with Health Technology Assessment and the HTA programme” (above).

New Staff

Daniel Horner

Daniel Horner has recently joined the group from Manchester, to co-lead a HTA funded project with Professor Steve Goodacre, alongside a panel of international orthopaedic and thrombosis experts. The project is looking at the use of anticoagulant medication to reduce acute venous thromboembolism in patients immobilised after isolated limb trauma.

Dan is a consultant in emergency and intensive care medicine at Salford Royal NHS Foundation trust. Dan’s research interests are principally in thrombosis, in particular the diagnosis and management of isolated distal deep vein thrombosis. He has also previously been involved in producing national guidance from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine on the issue of thromboprophylaxis for outpatients immobilised in plaster.

Dan writes for the stemlynsblog.org and can be found on twitter. Drop him a line and say hello. Or, if you want to see him in person the old fashioned way, he can be found in the SCHARR offices on a Monday for the next year. Here he is, surrounded by fish, and he looks forward to meeting you all.
The Sheffield Emergency Care Forum (website), were invited to attend the 999 EMS Research Forum, here, the members write about their experience of the event.

Enid Hirst, Maggie Marsh and Linda Abouzeid were invited to attend the 999 EMS Conference this year in Bristol following their involvement in PHOEBE, VAN, ClosED, EDARA, ACUTE and ARP. Seven other PPI representatives, from across the UK also attended this two day event and we enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work alongside them during the conference. It was good to see so much ScHARR-led research was included in the conference and it was noted how often the importance of PPI was stressed during the presentations.

Highlights of the event from a PPI perspective included attending the workshop on “Preparing Research Proposals” and having the opportunity to stress the importance of PPI during the discussions. All the PPI representatives had been invited to assist with the judging of posters (including four submitted by CURE researchers). Although this proved to be a great learning opportunity, it meant we had little time to enjoy the coffee and lunch breaks as we had 28 posters to view and mark. After prizes were awarded for the winning poster and, following the concluding remarks, we made for the exit and our train home. We had enjoyed an extremely interesting and thought-provoking two days and have written to the organisers with our thanks and comments.

New Projects

DEUCE is a 27 month study, funded by NIHR. We need to know more about population attitudes to seeking health care, reasons for people’s decision-making, and what might help people to make choices. DEUCE will seek to do this by undertaking three sequential studies: 1) a realist synthesis, 2) a qualitative study interviewing recent users of emergency and urgent care, and 3) a national population survey of adults in Britain. Our intention is that this study will help policy makers to plan future ways of managing demand so that service provision works for patients and is sustainable in the future. Please contact Dr Emma Knowles (project manager) for further information: e.l.knowles@sheffield.ac.uk or visit our webpage: DEUCE

Drivers of demand for Emergency and Urgent Care services

Upcoming Events:

Health Services Research UK 2017 Symposium, 6-7 July, at Nottingham Conference Centre
Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) Annual Scientific Conference, 16-18 October, the ACC in Liverpool

Recent Publications


ABLARD S, O’KEEFFE C, RAMLAKHAN S, MASON SM. PRIMARY CARE SERVICES CO-LOCATED WITH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS ACROSS A UK REGION: EARLY VIEWS ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT. EMERG MED J. 2017 MAY 9. EMERMED-2016. FOUND HERE.