



RESEARCH MATTERS

NEWSLETTER

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In this issue we will share with you the successful re-launch of Papers to Patient, previously known as the Journal club. To highlight this re-launch, the St Luke's Research team invited Dr Natalie Richardson from York University to share the findings from her study "The significance of a sausage sandwich: Hidden care(ers) in the hospice". We had a great staff turnout for the session and many were moved with the results and impact it has on everyone involved in palliative care.

This issue also explains the different methodologies used to improve the quality of care and we have an exciting sneak peak into St Luke's Pharmacist's Amy Muscroft's study *"to drip or drive, that is the question?"*



RE-LAUNCH OF PAPERS TO PATIENT & A SAUSAGE SANDWICH!

The St Luke's Journal Club is being re-launched with a new name, new dates, diverse agendas and a wider remit. In line with this we thought a new name for the group appropriate and so from January 2025 it will be called 'Papers to Patient' or 'P2P'.

The group will still focus on enhancing our knowledge of palliative and hospice care, with the goal of improving the care we give to our patients. At P2P we will pose the questions that we all have about our practice, then put our heads together to get the answers we need using research methodology. The topics will be guided by the attendees and will be relevant to our work.

In the spirit of the re-launch, on Thursday 19 December 2024 we held a celebration event in which we were thrilled to welcome Dr Natalie Richardson from York University. We all know the impact of palliative care on our patients and their loved ones. Dr Natalie shared her findings of her study "The significance of a sausage sandwich: hidden care(ers) in the hospice".

While research has traditionally focussed on clinicians in palliative care, Dr Natalie's findings celebrate **everyone** involved, and the importance of everyday – but often overlooked - **acts of care and kindness**, such as holding hands, a reassuring presence, and the importance of a great sausage sandwich! The research brings attention to the hidden work of non-clinical staff, such as hospitality and housekeepers and we specifically wanted to shine a light on these roles at this celebration. To find out more about Dr Natalie's research, click here: [Sausage sandwich: hidden care\(ers\) in the hospice](#)

Dr Natalie Richardson praised the work of our workforce and stated "A big thank you to all St Luke's staff members for the incredible work you do every day". St Luke's trustee Martin Mckerverey attended the event and commended the work and effort that Dr Natalie has put into gathering this research. He also praised the commitment that all of St Luke's staff put into their individual roles that fosters a hospice environment filled with care. The Sausage Sandwich session was so successful, St Luke's was featured in the 'News' page of the Telegraph newspaper and in the Star's 'Sheffield picture of the day'!



COME AND GET INVOLVED!

This multi-disciplinary group will continue to meet monthly on Thursday mornings from 9:45am – 10:45am to facilitate wider engagement. We will meet both online and in the research office at ERS for those who want to meet in person.

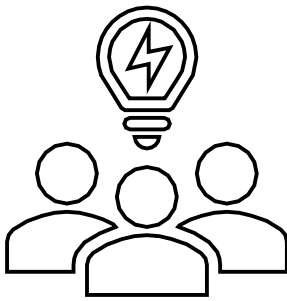


DID YOU KNOW?

Flu can live on surfaces for 48 hours! Wiping surfaces down with a detergent is therefore one of the best ways to stop flu spreading. You can read the full article here:

<https://archive.cdc.gov/www.cdc.gov/flu/>

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]



DRIP VS GRAVITY STUDY

We are currently looking at the evidence associated with the administration of Subcutaneous (s/c) fluids to help us decide if we should administer fluids to our patients using a device or via gravity. Surprisingly we don't know the answer.

Pharmacist Amy Muscroft has decided she would like to take on supporting this piece of work and is completing a literature review as part of her Masters. She has named the study locally as *"to drip or drive, that is the question?"* Amy will be working with clinical staff and P2P on this work to help us to decide on the best way to administer S/C fluids for our patients and our staff in the future. Watch this space...

WHAT IS RESEARCH, CLINICAL AUDIT, SERVICE EVALUATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT?

Research, clinical audit, service evaluation and quality improvement (QI) are all approaches to gather and interpret information for different purposes, but using similar methods to influence quality.

Research uses scientific methods to generate new knowledge by addressing clearly defined questions with systematic and rigorous methods and largely requires funding and takes a significant amount of time.

Clinical audit measures a service's activity against a "gold standard" so stakeholders and patients know where their service is doing well, and where there could be improvements. The outcome of an audit can highlight where improvements are needed, it is often the first step in the QI process.

Service evaluation is broad in remit. It aims to describe how well a service is achieving its intended aims. It usually has the purpose of evaluating an already established service, or the introduction of a change or new service. Service evaluation may be used to determine whether a service is fit for practice and will usually be used to inform local decision-making about a service where particular issues need solving.

Quality improvement (QI) projects build upon clinical audit and service evaluation to improve what a clinical service is doing. QI does not seek to create general knowledge; rather it generates several lessons as to what actually works and does not work and why in the specific area you want to improve. The goal of QI is to *improve* rather than to *prove*, which means the data can be 'just good enough' rather than perfect.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Please provide your valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the quality of this newsletter.

Thank you for being part of our research community! For more information, please email us on research@hospicesheffield.co.uk.

