Future-proofing General Practice – 23rd August 2019

[Covering innovation, leadership, skill mix & workforce planning, telehealth]

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Innovation

New Ideas - Strategies and Techniques: Inspiring Innovation Through Creative Thinking.

Mind Tools; 2019.

An open mind is a valuable resource. When you're interested in new possibilities, and able to think creatively, you're more likely to stay energized in your role – and keep your team or organization one step ahead of the competition.

Leadership

How doctors in leadership roles establish and maintain a positive patient-centred culture.

General Medical Council (GMC). 2019.

This report finds that positively-engaged leaders from diverse backgrounds are key to transforming organisational cultures. However, they are often unprepared and unsupported for the challenges of leadership during the early stages of their management careers. Support for senior healthcare leaders is needed to help them overcome challenges that can impact on patient care.

Skill Mix & Workforce Planning

Non-medical prescribing in the United Kingdom National Health Service: A systematic policy review.


Prescribing appears to be more easily adopted into practice where it can form part of the overall care of the patient. Where new roles are required to be established, then prescribing takes longer to be universally adopted. While this review concerns policy and practice in the UK, the aspect of role adoption has wider potential implications.

Enacting evidence-based practice: pathways for community nurses.


Community nurses are expected to draw on evidence to shape their practice but face numerous obstacles, especially time constraints; they would benefit from support to navigate through the process of change with a practice-development role in community nursing and accessible online resources.

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The community pharmacy setting for diabetes prevention: Views and perceptions of stakeholders

Katangwe T. et al PLoS ONE; 2019; vol. 14 (no. 7)
This research highlights a role for community pharmacy in diabetes prevention. New service models should seek to integrate community pharmacy services in primary care to facilitate patient engagement and better communication with general practices.

**Creating digitally ready nurses in general practice.**
This action learning programme to create digitally ready nurses underpins action six of NHS England’s ten-point plan for general practice nursing, showing that a ‘ground-up’ approach to upskill and empower front-line clinicians is central to embedding technology-enabled care services.

**Social prescribing link workers: Reference guide for primary care networks.**
This guide provides additional information to help primary care networks introduce the new role of social prescribing link worker into their multi-disciplinary teams as part of the expansion to the primary care workforce introduced under the GP contract reforms.

**Skill-mix change in general practice: a qualitative comparison of three 'new' non-medical roles in English primary care.**
Introducing new roles to general practice is not a simple process. Recognition of factors affecting the assimilation of roles may help to better align them with the goals of general practice and harness the commitment of individual practices to enable role sustainability.

**Mixed methods exploration of physiotherapist’s approaches to analgesic use among patients with hip osteoarthritis.**
Holden, M.A. et al. *Physiotherapy*; Sep 2019; vol. 105 (no. 3); p. 328-337
Although the potential benefits of independent prescribing were recognised, not all physiotherapists welcome additional responsibility. Further guidance supporting optimisation of analgesic use among patients with hip OA may help better align care with best practice guidelines and reduce GP referrals.

**Which positive factors give general practitioners job satisfaction and make general practice a rewarding career? A European multicentric qualitative research by the European general practice research network.**
Le Floch, B. *BMC Family Practice*; Aug 2019; vol. 20 (no. 1)
This study identified positive factors which give GPs job satisfaction in their clinical practice. GPs need to have freedom to choose their working environment and to organize their practice to suit themselves. In addition, they need to have access to professional education to develop specific skills for General Practice and strengthen doctor-patient relationships. Stakeholders should consider these factors when seeking to increase the GP workforce.

**The Sheffield Caseload Classification Tool: testing its inter-rater reliability.**
The Sheffield Caseload Classification Tool has been co-designed by community nurses and nurse managers to help determine nursing need and complexity. This validation exercise has indicated that
the tool is reliable in assigning patients on a community nursing caseload to the appropriately skilled nurse and package of care. The tool helps to accurately determine clinical demand and skill mix to aid workforce planning across a complex community nursing caseload.

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**Effects of non-dispensing pharmacists integrated in general practice on medication-related hospitalisations**

*Sloeserwij V.M. et al*  
*British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology; 2019*

In general practices with an integrated NDP, the rate of medication-related hospitalisations is lower compared to usual care. No differences with usual care plus were found.

**Telehealth**

**Use of mobile apps and technologies in child and adolescent mental health: a systematic review**

*Mallika Punukollu & Mafalda Marques*  
*Evidence-Based Mental Health 29 July 2019*

Analysis of the research evidence concludes that mental health apps directed at young people have the potential to be important assessment, management and treatment tools, therefore creating easier access to health services, helping in the prevention of mental health issues and capacitating to self-help in case of need.

**Medication management needs information and communications technology-based approaches, including telehealth and artificial intelligence.**

*Eggerth A.*  
*British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology 4th July 2019*

This paper summarises the state-of-the-art of telehealth and artificial intelligence applications in medication management. It focuses on 3 major aspects: latest technologies, current applications, and patient related issues.

**Review of apps and other digital technology to assess cognition in older adults.**

*Sarah Gregory*  
*The Mental Elf 26 July 2019.*

This blog covers a clinical review of technologies available or in development for assessing cognition, from at risk populations through to people living with a diagnosis of dementia.

**Comparing the content and quality of video, telephone, and face-to-face consultations: a non-randomised, quasiexperimental, exploratory study in UK primary care**

*Hammersley V. et al.*  
*The British journal of general practice Jul 2019*

Video consultation (VC) may be suitable for simple problems not requiring physical examination. VC, in terms of consultation length, content, and quality, appeared similar to TC. Both approaches appeared less 'information rich' than FTFC. Technical problems were common and, though patients really liked VC, infrastructure issues need to be addressed before the approach can be mainstreamed in primary care.
Using mHealth for the management of hypertension in UK primary care: an embedded qualitative study of the TASMINH4 randomised controlled trial

Grant S et al. The British journal of general practice Jul 2019

Although telemonitoring by mHealth facilitates easier communication and convenience, in current UK general practice a paper-based approach to self-monitoring may be more easily integrated into workflows. Self-monitoring should be offered to all patients with hypertension. Telemonitoring gives additional benefits over and above self-monitoring but both should be offered.

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A MILLION DECISIONS
The joint campaign from CLIP and Health Education England
#amilliondecisions