

## 8.21 Staff experience survey on the impact of inhaler education on acute medical wards in Cork University Hospital- a quality improvement initiative.

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**Background:** Inhaled bronchodilators and inhaled steroid medications are important components in the management of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. A recent systematic review of inhaler technique studies in patients has reported frequent error rates with no apparent improvement over a 40 year period, and another systematic review demonstrated that all subgroups of health care professionals (including physicians, respiratory therapists, nurses and pharmacists) also have high error rates in the use of these devices which has been known since 1984.

**Objective:** Perform a retrospective review on staff experience on the impact of inhaler education on wards and improve standards of care.

**Methods:** A 10-item dichotomous questionnaire was developed to understand the staff experiences on the inhaler training provided to them with an open ended question to allow for quality improvement ideas and feedback. Staffs who attended the training completed the questionnaire.

**Results:** All staff felt they were confident and had a better understanding of administering inhalers after attending inhaler education. 95% of staff felt that not having enough time/knowledge/confidence were the main barriers in administering prescribed inhalers for their patients. 82% of staff felt that conducting inhaler technique competency assessment and providing in-service education 6-monthly, would help in improving their clinical practice.

**Conclusion:** A single effective educational session on inhaler technique can significantly improve health professionals long-term ability to demonstrate these skills and improve quality in practice.

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