

Handover to Medical Students

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Background & Aim

An efficient, safe and effective handover has been heavily highlighted in the latest GMC guidelines. Moreover, final year medical students have requested exposure to practical and applicable skills prior to starting work as junior doctors. The project aimed to engage this problem by providing students with bleeps and providing spontaneous mock handovers during their day to day work.

Baseline

A baseline assessment showed that students lacked confidence in receiving an effective handover prior to starting the project. Our project hoped to increase the students confidence using tools that they would find applicable when they began work as junior doctors.

	Confidence in receiving handover BEFORE holding the bleep (1 – not confident, 10 – very confident)				
	1	2	3	4	5
No. of Students	0	1	4	4	1
	6	7	8	9	10
No. of Students	0	0	0	0	0

PDSA

- 10 final year medical students were provided with an on-call bleep for one week.
- Doctors contacted them and performed mock handovers, similar to the way doctors are bleeped during their day-to-day and on-call work.
- Feedback was provided to students following the mock phone consultation and suggestions were made to improve their practice.

Benefits

- Trust:** Students enjoy the clinical opportunities that ELHT provides. This project builds on these well established teaching opportunities. With positive experiences and an improved skill set, we can hope that these students would choose ELHT for their foundation year training.
- Patients:** The importance of an effective handover has been emphasised in literature as well as in the General Medical Council guidance. Improved handover between medical professionals will help ensure safe care to patients.

Results (Measures)

	Confidence in receiving handover AFTER holding the bleep (1 – not confident, 10 – very confident)				
	1	2	3	4	5
No. of Students	0	0	0	1	0
	6	7	8	9	10
Students	3	4	2	0	0

Feedback was very positive with an improvement in confidence for every student:

- “Handover was very useful and feedback was helpful for my future practice”
- “Very useful and would highly recommend “
- “Treated like a real handover”

Sustainability

This project has been developed and run by junior doctors with support from the undergraduate team. As the opportunity to engage with this project provides significant personal development opportunities as well as contributes to a strong portfolio, junior doctors have been keen to get involved. The project has already been passed over from one set of junior doctors to another.

