

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY/PALLIATIVE MEDICINE APPROACH TO PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE.

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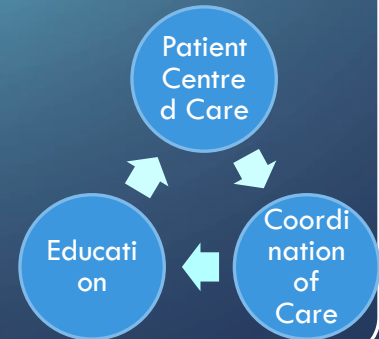
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The project represents a collaboration between the Vascular and Palliative Care department at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. The prevalence of patients presenting with advanced peripheral arterial disease is continuously expanding. We recognise this ageing, frail population, with likely multiple co morbidities and complex needs, are often not suitable for major revascularisation and may benefit from a more palliative outlook. The project aims to deliver a more integrated approach in order to work in partnership with each individual to provide best supportive care and facilitate life planning.

Previous work, challenge, and approach

- Originally Commenced as a research project and following the recognition for a collaborative working approach, the project has progressed into a service development role within the specialist nurse team.
- By 2030, the Vascular Society predicts our workload will increase by 70%. This highlights the importance of raising awareness. We recognise the need to expand our service, in order to provide for the increasingly frail, multi morbidity population.
- We aim to adapt a patient centred approach through collaborated working in order to coordinate care and provide continuity for each individual patient whilst ensuring they have access to the appropriate support.
- Data collected from patients within the vascular in patient department during the research phase shows only 7% of patients have a developed ACP despite having a palliative performance scale of 50% or less.
- Anecdotally, this cohort of patients would benefit from discussions surrounding their clinical care, in order to ensure wishes are respected and in some cases, may even prevent unnecessary readmission to hospital in the future.



Plan, Do, Study, Act



- Data analysis through the use of the Integrated Palliative Care Outcome Scale (IPOS), both as an inpatient and on follow up will allow us to continue to obtain a whole assessment of each individuals physical and psychological needs, whilst monitoring any deterioration or improvement.
- We have adapted a systematic approach through the use of the trigger tool from the Respect document, in order to identify this cohort of patients.
- It has been highlighted, through the use of the trigger tool, that 87% of the current vascular inpatient department would benefit from having a Respect conversation. By the development of a life planning document, we can work in collaboration with patients and their families in order to personalise their trajectory of care.
- By facilitating these conversations, it ensures the patient can make informed decisions regarding their plan of care, in turn, allowing us to record, communicate and coordinate a plan.

Key Take Home Message

- The key aim of this quality Improvement project is for early identification and to share realistic expectations in order to plan for the future and optimise each patients quality of remaining life.
- There is no pre-existing formal link between a vascular surgical department and palliative medicine in Scotland. We wish to raise awareness of the requirement for robust palliative care as an approach in patients with advanced vascular disease. We will continue to work within the multidisciplinary team and ensure our practice is evidence based whilst adapting a holistic approach to plan for the future.

