

Using knowledge translation to improve the mental health of all infants and young children in a paediatric hospital

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AIM OF PROJECT

Ensuring that clinical care is informed by research evidence is a challenge for all health professions. This presentation will discuss a knowledge translation project for paediatric medical, nursing and allied health staff on infant social emotional development to ensure that mental health is addressed as a routine part of clinical health care. The knowledge translation framework informing the project, the core infant mental health concepts identified as salient and the process of implementation including the refinements required as the project unfolded will be discussed.

METHODS/RESULTS:

Baseline knowledge and skills of staff were assessed using an online survey that targeted knowledge, knowledge gaps, confidence in skills and sought feedback on what clinicians would find helpful to improve their practice. Continuous evaluation of the project included pen and paper surveys assessing impact of knowledge translation efforts.

CONCLUSION: The pilot phase of the project indicated that the project was feasible and needed early refinement in terms of strategy. Clinical staff were engaged in the project and found the knowledge translation content helped them in their delivery of mental health informed care. Paediatric hospital staff are well placed to intervene early to prevent or remedy the impacts of early adversity on future health outcomes by attending to the mental health of patients as they deliver usual care but often lack the knowledge and skills to do so.