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Sharing Learning from Practice to improve Patient Safety (SLIPPS)

Participant Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in this Project.

Before you decide it is important for you to read this leaflet so you understand why the project is being carried out and what it will involve.

Reading this leaflet, discussing it with others or asking any questions you might have will help you decide whether or not you would like to take part.

What is the Purpose of the Study

The Shared Learning from Practice to improve Patient Safety (SLIPPS) Multidisciplinary European Patient Safety project proposal was planned in response to the challenge to improve European patient safety education and practice.

Health and social care education is important for the quality and safety of services and organisations. Errors, mishaps and misunderstandings are common in patient care with around 1 in 10 patients suffering avoidable harm (WHO 2014). Furthermore, best practice in patient safety is often not recognised or shared.

However, students are in a special situation, they have the possibility to observe day-to-day 'daily living' of health care organisations and learn as part of a team in direct contact with clients and patients. Students may witness or be involved in patient safety related events of varying degrees: from episodes of best practice in safeguarding patients through to adverse events and incidents. These 'important student learning events' are a rich and often an untapped source of learning for other students, patient safety research and healthcare organisations.

Therefore, by drawing on the real experiences of health/social care students in practice placements **this project aims to:**

- Utilise these experiences as the basis for a range of educational resources which will be freely available to students and educators anywhere in the world

- Utilize these experiences to identify main themes (between and across countries and or professions) and feed back to health care organisations and help them improve
- To develop tools and resources which will help you and other students learn about types of patient safety incident and develop 'resilience'
- To set up an international patient safety education and research network
- Build an international open access virtual learning centre for international, multi-professional learning about patient safety
- To undertake a range of research into areas such as:
 - How witnessing or involvement in incidents influences students' learning (and potentially future practice and culture)
 - Patient safety incident diversity and frequency across professions, nations and health care systems
 - Patient safety best practice, safety culture and professional working
 - Exploring the experience of being involved in the project –thus developing our understanding of this type of educational process and project

Why have I been invited to participate?

Your group of students has been identified as currently (or soon to be) undertaking practice experience (placements) in our partner healthcare organisation.

We would like to find students who are willing to help us by completing Learning Event Reports (LERs) while on (or soon after) being on placements during your course.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free to decline to take part, or to withdraw from the project at any time, without any impact on your education, grades or results from your course.

Completing the LER will constitute agreement to participate

What will happen if I take part?

While you are in placements with our healthcare organisation partner (or soon after), you will be asked to complete a number of Learning Event Reports (LERs). You may be asked to complete several LERs during the time you are on your course of study (e.g. 2-3 years). You are free to complete as many or as few LERs as you wish.

Agreeing to participate does not mean you have to complete a LER every time you are invited to.

To complete a LERs you will be asked to describe and reflect on an event you feel was important or significant for your learning about Patient Safety.

The learning event can be:

- a positive example of good practice,
- something routine or satisfactory,

- a negative or unsatisfactory event (near miss, adverse event, error etc)

You will be given a structured form (this may be online), guidance and examples to help you.

You will not be expected to write more than a couple of pages. You may be able to do this as part of your existing course work or use it as evidence for a professional portfolio.

You may also be asked if you are willing to take part in an interview about being involved in this project. If you agree the interview will be held at a time and place convenient for you and will last a maximum of 1 hour.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

It is not envisaged that there will be any risk, or undue distress arising from participation in the project. The study will require some of your time.

However, experience in this field has shown that reflective accounts and interviews can sometimes engender emotions or distress, reveal sensitive information, and very occasionally information that calls for further action to be taken.

The following procedures will be in place:

- The project team will ensure that participants are supported during the data gathering process and the process will be discontinued if distress is noted.
- Participants are free to withdraw at any time.
- The project team are experienced professionals. They work within their respective codes of professional practice and are skilled at responding appropriately to difficult issues and participant distress.
- If a participant becomes distressed and if they wish the project team may refer to the university student support and counselling services.
- Furthermore, if a participant discloses evidence of a serious nature which suggests imminent danger or risk to patients, students or staff, the project team will be professionally obliged to take any necessary action required. This may involve Professional judgement in accordance with The NMC Code (2015) and Northumbria University Raising Concerns Policy. Liaison with the health care organisation via established routes (e.g. NHS trust policy, via the Director for Nursing and or Physiotherapy).

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Potential benefits for you:

The Learning Event Record may help you to identify and learn from best practice, unsafe practice and risky and near miss behaviors and to appreciate areas for your own personal learning and development

Potential benefits for the health care and education organizations involved:

Your taking part will help us learn directly from student experience and inform the development of the education (university) or health care organizations systems, processes.

Potential benefits for international health care and education:

Your taking part will help us develop an understanding of students experiences across Europe and will allow us to compare, contrast and learn from one another. We will also develop learning and teaching resources based on you LERs which will be freely available to anyone in the world, we hope in this way that many countries (people, patients staff, organisations) will benefit.

We also hope that you will also be able to help us in making the tool more acceptable and easy to use so we can make it available to many more students across the EU and perhaps eventually even wider

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential and anonymous?

Your participation will be kept confidential with only the project team (which may include academic/lecturers from your course) having access to your identity.

You will be identified only by numeric codes, held securely by the academic lead and/or researcher for your site (Alison Steven / Researcher) .

To maintain the anonymity of you and other people you will be asked to avoid using names or identifying features of the patient, staff or unit concerned in any LER you complete.

As a 'double check' the academic lead or researcher for your site will check new LERs for any possible identifying features and amend or remove these before LERs are uploaded securely to the SLIPPS database.

How will my data be stored?

All data will be gathered electronically, recorded and stored in a password protected location within your university's systems. Once anonymization has been checked, it will be uploaded to the SLIPPS Database. This will be password protected and meet required standards for electronic data protection

What will happen to the results of the project?

The database of anonymized LERs will be used to develop simulation scenarios, podcasts /virtual seminars, ideas for learning games about patient safety, and for classroom learning using material from the database.

The data will also be available for further in depth analysis by researchers and research students to develop a better understanding of learning about patient safety, patient safety incident diversity and frequency across professions, nations and health care systems.

Findings and learning from the project will be reported in professional journals and at conferences, submitted to the EU funding body and potentially to UK government, and policy making bodies. A dissemination event (conference) will be held towards the end of the project. A report from the project will be made freely available on the project website.

Who is Organizing and Funding the project?

The project is co- funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Who has reviewed this study?

Independent reviewers for Erasmus+, and University/Faculty Ethics Committees

Contact for further information:

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Or for independent advice

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