

Clinical Audit spotlight on: Rainbows Children's Hospice



Overview

Rainbows Children's Hospice opened in 1994 and is currently the only hospice for children and young adults operating in the East Midlands.

Rainbows is a place where life-limited children and their families can find care and support. The Rainbows team provides specialist respite, palliative and end of life care.

Rainbows has 12 beds and aims to provide one-to-one care for all children. The hospice is a nurse-led unit with support from specialist doctors. The Care Quality Commission awarded the hospice an "outstanding" rating (the highest possible).

Rainbows are a charity and are heavily reliant on income from donations and fundraising.

Contact details

www.rainbows.co.uk
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Clinical Audit in Action

The mantra of 'if we can't measure it we can't improve it' runs through the approach taken to clinical audit at Rainbows. The organisation has an active clinical audit and quality improvement programme that is developed each year by the Clinical Audit Committee. The programme aims to be responsive to organisational priorities and considers projects in relation to their impact on patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient experience. The Clinical Audit Committee meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Lead Nurse for Education, Quality and Governance. Other members of the committee include the hospice matron, nursing staff with a remit for audit, the organisational compliance manager, a representative from the Clinical Audit Support Centre.

The hospice was inspected by the CQC and received an overall rating of outstanding, clinical audit featured in the report with the regulator highlighting that 'An effective system was in place to monitor and audit the quality of the service being provided'.

Projects currently being undertaken at Rainbows include: infection control and handwashing, medicines management and drug storage, drug chart completion, children and adults safeguarding and record keeping. There are also audits planned to review care provided in relation to the tissue viability policy and a young people's day care documentation. The other two audits planned have an organisational emphasis and will look at clinical supervision and an audit of nursing placements and their effectiveness at the hospice. Rainbows isn't eligible to participate in any of the national clinical audit projects and therefore the programme developed is responsive locally to the needs of the children and young people who use the service and is focussed on both compliance and that all important goal of improvement.

Our real asset to delivering clinical audit at Rainbows are the staff who undertake much of the development work. Staff have the opportunity to take part in a Quality Improvement Skills Training Day, this is run on a quarterly basis and includes introductions to the skills needed for clinical audit, quality improvement and root cause analysis. Clinical Audit Support Centre thoroughly enjoy playing a key role in these days and getting staff enthused and engaged with proactively changing practice where needed.

Future plans to improve CA

The Clinical Audit Committee are constantly looking at ways to improve how clinical audit and quality improvement is embedded into the work Rainbows does. We are currently undertaking a review of the programme to ensure it is fit for purpose and is up to date with the new organisational arrangements at the hospice.

We still believe that the emphasis focuses a little too heavily on compliance audits and as a committee we are thinking about ways to get more improvement based projects up and running within the organisation. We are keen to see teams identifying areas to work on and being able to develop projects to improve the care they provide. Our challenge in relation to this is one of time and competing priorities but we believe that by showcasing the benefits of developing and owning clinical audit projects both individuals and the organisation will reap the rewards.

#CAAW
November 2018