Experiences of setting up a Journal Club at Birmingham St Mary’s Hospice

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Introduction
The need to establish a journal club was identified in Birmingham St Mary’s Hospice strategy for Scholarship and Research (2015-17). Our monthly Journal Club was started in May 2015 and is open to all members of staff. There are on average 10 attendees at each Journal Club with representatives from a variety of multi disciplinary teams. A brief presentation on a chosen journal article is given by a member of staff and is then used as a basis for discussion by the group.

Aims of Journal Club:
• To help staff develop critical appraisal skills
• Generate discussion about the links between research and evidence based practice
• Provide a forum for multi disciplinary team discussion on clinically relevant issues

Barriers to Attending:
• Time
• Location
• Workload

Feedback from Journal Club attendees
“Useful for CPD and revalidation”
“Personal development and being clinically informed”
“Allows sharing of knowledge”
“Learned from peers/colleagues analysis of research methodology and findings”
“It is a fantastic learning opportunity to discuss papers relevant and current to palliative care and hear other disciplines / perspectives”

Plans to build on the successes of our Journal Club:
• To provide precis of journal article and discussion of each Journal Club and circulate to staff who were unable to attend. To increase engagement with research and sharing ideas for evidence based practice to as many staff a possible.
• Changing the physical location of Journal Club to a room near the inpatient unit to make it more accessible to nursing staff on the inpatient unit, as at present this staff group is not well represented.
• Develop a template for critical appraisal to facilitate discussions and build on staff members existing expertise.