

Royal College of Physicians Clinical Effectiveness Forum

The Royal College of Physicians clinical Effectiveness forum meets semi-annually. During the last year, the main areas of discussion were around the following topics:

- The current status of the Future Hospital Programme
- Review of the national quality agenda, individual clinical outcome publication and open data & data sharing
- The role of guideline development and quality improvement
- The role of Health Quality Improvement Programme and quality improvement
- Evidence and quality improvement and the global concept of setting higher standards.
- Rationale and policy background to shared decision making and support for self-management as an approach to partnership working with patients and carers
- The key elements of shared decision making are patients and clinicians working together to select tests, treatments, management or support packages based on clinical evidence and patient preference
- Patients bring experience, personal values, knowledge and preferences, whereas clinicians bring best evidence presented clearly and skilfully
- Improved outcomes are the result of interaction between proactive prepared health team and informed activated patient
- A care plan is at the heart of a partnership approach to care and a central part of effective care management. The process of agreeing a care plan offers people active involvement in deciding, agreeing and owning how their condition is to be managed'
- The hours spent with healthcare professionals is a fraction of the time that patients with long term conditions spend in self-management
- Shared Decision Making (SDM) and Support for Self- Management (SSM) refer to a set of attitudes, roles, and skills, supported by tools and organisational systems, which put patients and carers into a full partnership relationship with clinicians in all clinical interactions. It was recognised that that patients and carers expect this to be the usual / default experience in their clinical interactions with Physicians and will work towards making this part of normal practice
- There was discussion that this practice and skills set needs to be woven into physician training and assessment, both undergraduate and post graduate as well as Consultant Physician training

Dr Bella Madan
September 2014