

## **UK-10**

### **Post-CCT GP Fellowship in Urgent and Acute Care**

E. Hughes<sup>1</sup>, M. Aiello<sup>1</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Health Education West Midlands, Birmingham;

With an increasing emphasis on admission avoidance and reconfigurations resulting in step-down care units where GPs would be involved, additional skills training is necessary to meet service requirements and provide comprehensive patient care. The Post-CCT GP Fellowship in Urgent and Acute Care was developed by Health Education West Midlands to address this need, by providing a platform for GPs to gain enhanced skills in the provision of Urgent care.

The Fellowship will enable the retention of generalist skills and the development of specific and enhanced skills to fit new settings of urgent care.

To define and evaluate the concept, a two phase pilot of the Fellowship programme was launched in the West Midlands from January 2014, appointing three GP Fellows. The second phase commenced from November 2014, appointing a further four Fellows.

#### **Fellowship Content**

Each GP Fellow's work base rotates over a 12-month period through the ED, the Medical Admissions Unit and West Midlands Ambulance Service, with time also spent training within their nominated GP Practice (four Programme Activities [PA] per week), as well as other training including ALS, ATLS, APLS and First Person on Scene (FPOS) training. Key features of the curriculum include: Paediatrics, care of acutely ill patients, frail and elderly care and end-of-life care.

In addition, the GP Fellows undertake two PAs per week of mandatory study time, where they are expected to complete a bespoke Post-Graduate Certificate in Urgent and Acute Care, delivered through the University of Worcester.

Intended Learning Outcomes.

- To better understand the needs of patients, why they are attending ED and how the GPs role could be adapted to improve ED avoidance.
- To develop innovative ideas / share best practice of meeting the emergency medicine agenda in Primary care.

#### **Evaluation Outcomes**

The interim evaluation report (commissioned through Warwick Medical School, February 2015) found that the Fellowship is being enthusiastically received by those who are involved in its delivery and successfully addressed the aims and expectations of its key stakeholders.

The fellowship enhanced services provided within the ED, AMU and Ambulance settings, while successfully supporting Fellows in developing a range of knowledge and skills related to urgent care.

The Fellows have become more adept at making best use of community-based alternative care pathways and leading / educating their primary and secondary care colleagues; to support patients with acute care needs to remain outside hospital.

The success of the pilot provides evidence that can inform future NHS strategy and policy. The Fellowship has proven feasibility and provides a model for up-skilling GPs to work in an enhanced way across primary care, urgent care and emergency care settings, supporting admission avoidance and making greater use of community-based alternative care pathways. It successfully challenged traditional barriers, which have previously resulted in patients receiving fragmented, inappropriate and costly care.

The complex challenges facing the NHS with an ageing population with multiple co-morbidities requires a “cross fertilisation” of knowledge, practices and ideas; the Fellowship scheme is well-placed to catalyse this at local level.