Quality improvement – training for better outcomes

Briefing note for GPs – what does this mean for me?

“In order to practise medicine in the 21st century, a core understanding of quality improvement is as important as our understanding of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry”

Stephen Powis, Medical Director, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, 2015

What is this?
A report containing a set of recommendations aimed at aligning efforts to embed quality improvement as a core component of all medical education and training.

Who is making these recommendations?
The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, together with a wide range of 35 stakeholder groups across the UK, including representatives from trainees, the GMC, patients, employers and the BMA.

What are the recommendations?
The recommendations arise from four work-streams; curriculum; education, learning and development; mapping examples in practice; strategic and supporting infrastructure. In brief, they are summarised as:

- It is essential to embed quality improvement into undergraduate and postgraduate medical training
- Every individual and organisation involved in medical education has a role to play in supporting trainees to make a difference
- The strength of quality improvement activity is how multi-professionals work and learn together, involving our patients in improving patient care
- Report includes examples of curricula content, how to deliver training, and examples of good practice, bringing the practicalities of quality improvement in action to life.

Three things a GP can do to put these recommendations into practice
1. Support trainees and undergraduates attached to their practice to undertake a quality improvement project
2. Encourage and resource employed staff to attend quality improvement training
3. Become involved with the Royal College of General Practitioners in the development of accessible training and support for the whole general practice team.
What else is relevant to me as a GP?

- General practice is under pressure at present – quality improvement can help the practice find out what works and what does not work
- Trainees entering general practice need to possess the skills and knowledge in quality improvement
- Their trainers and the whole practice team need access to quality improvement training so that new models of care or any change can be introduced and assessed effectively
- The whole practice team need to be aware of the importance of patient involvement in quality improvement activities.
- The Royal College of General Practitioners sees as a priority the continuing promotion of methods and tools of quality improvement relevant to general practice and needs to work with other colleges and bodies to help achieve this aim
- The RCGP guide to quality improvement and resources may be found here [http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/our-programmes/quality-improvement.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/our-programmes/quality-improvement.aspx)

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