

A Closed Loop Audit Evaluating Provision of Written Information for Surgical Consent

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Type	AUDIT
Specialty	orthopaedics
Trust	Princess Royal University Hospital (King's College Hospital NHS FT)
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Background

The Royal College of Surgeons and the GMC both emphasise that robust consent processes should include provision of written patient information, decision aids, and information leaflets in advance of surgical consultation. Written information enhances patient understanding, facilitates informed decision-making, reduces medicolegal risk, and provides patients with an accessible reference beyond the verbal consultation. Despite these standards, the provision of written information leaflets prior to consent for surgical procedures is inconsistently implemented in many units. This closed loop audit was conducted at PRUH to evaluate baseline provision, implement a standardised leaflet intervention, and assess the impact of the intervention on compliance.

Aims

To evaluate whether written information leaflets are provided to patients during the consent process for surgical procedures, and to assess the impact of introducing standardised written information on compliance.

Objectives

1. Retrospectively review EPIC records for 50 patients to assess documentation of written information provision at baseline. 2. Develop standardised written information leaflets for common hand surgical conditions. 3. Implement leaflet provision during clinic appointments at Beckenham Beacon. 4. Re-audit after 4 months to assess change in compliance following the intervention. 5. Compare pre- and post-intervention rates to close the audit loop.

Guidelines

RCS Professional and Clinical Standards – Consent: Supported Decision-Making (November 2018); GMC Good Medical Practice – Duty of Candour and Informed Consent

Keywords

consent, informed consent, written information, patient leaflets, closed loop audit, hand surgery, RCS standards, GMC, decision aids, PRUH, patient safety