West Midlands Centre for Innovation and Training in Elective Care (CITEC) Patient Pathways Project

Case studies in patient pathways: clinical experience workbook (BREAST LUMP)
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction and aims

Welcome to your case studies in patient pathways clinical experience.

During the next few days/weeks, you will have the opportunity to follow the patient pathway for one of several common conditions. You will visit clinics, meet patients, take part in procedures and have an opportunity to learn from the different professionals who contribute to patient care.

Your clinical experience may be based in the Treatment Centre of your Trust, in a particular hospital department, or a mixture of both.

In all cases, by the end of your clinical experience, you should be able to:

- Explain the patient pathway for the condition as a connected sequence of steps leading from recognition of symptoms by the patient and initial referral through to discharge
- Appreciate the likely concerns and anxieties of a patient who is following this pathway
- Identify how the service attempts to meet the concerns of the patient
- Explain the particular features of patient pathway-based working as they relate this pathway
- Explain the roles of the different professional groups that contribute to the pathway
- Appreciate the importance of collaborative practice for good patient care
- Describe the main symptoms, investigations, diagnosis and management of the condition(s) treated via the pathway

Use this workbook to help you to structure and record your learning as you work through the patient pathway you have been allocated.
What is a patient pathway?

The ‘patient pathway’ is the route that a patient will take from their first contact with an NHS member of staff (usually their GP), through referral, to the completion of their treatment. It also covers the period from entry into a hospital or Treatment Centre, until the patient leaves. You can think of it as a timeline, on which every event relating to treatment can be entered. Events such as consultations, diagnosis, treatment, medication, diet, assessment, teaching and preparing for discharge from the hospital can all be mapped out on this timeline.

The pathway gives an outline of what is likely to happen on the patient’s journey and can be used both for patient information and for planning services, as a template pathway can be created for common services and operations.

Patient pathways and Treatment Centres

Treatment Centres have been designed around patient pathways. Many have used the patient pathway as their starting point in the layout of the centre, minimising the disruption to the patient during their stay within the Treatment Centre and allowing the patient to move from easily from one point in the process to the next. However, patient pathways are not confined to treatment centres. Many NHS Trusts have adopted the patient pathway approach in order to streamline the delivery of patient care for particular conditions. Review and adaptation of the patient pathway can result in significant reductions in delays for patients and more effective use of hospital resources.
Patient pathways and collaborative practice

Approaching patient care from the point of view of the patient pathway requires the various professionals involved in patient care to work closely together (collaborative practice) and it is important that, as a student, you are aware of the roles played by the different groups of health professionals in the care and treatment of patients. During your clinical experience, you will have the opportunity to deepen your understanding of the roles of other professional groups, enhance your inter-professional communication skills and prepare you for inter-professional working.
Ground rules for the patient pathways clinical experience programme

Attendance
You are expected to attend all the sessions to which you are allocated. If for some reason you cannot attend on a particular day, please contact your placement co-ordinator to explain your difficulty. Start and finish times for particular sessions will vary, and you are expected to adhere to them.

Attending Clinics
When you arrive in any clinic, please introduce yourself to the nurse in charge. The clinic staff will help guide you through the session, please adhere to any instructions they may give you.

Students from other professional groups may attend a particular clinic at the same time as you. If this is the case, you will need to work as a team with the other students to organise yourselves so that you are not all in one place at one time. This will need to be done in collaboration with the clinic staff.

Always remember to introduce yourself to the patients, explain your student status and seek consent from the patient prior to obtaining histories or performing procedures. Remember to maintain confidentiality at all times. You will be expected to wear uniform/white coat when in clinic areas.

Problems, queries or comments
Please don’t hesitate to contact either the placement co-ordinator for your Trust if you have any queries or concerns about your programme. If your query is of a more general nature, contact one of the project co-ordinators: Tracey Warren or Sue Thomas, on 01905 760855 or via email Tracey.Warren@worcsacute.wmids.nhs.uk Sue.Thomas@worcsacute.wmids.nhs.uk
Guidance for completing the on-line pathway simulation

http://medweb4.bham.ac.uk/patientpathways/index.asp

Before you begin your clinical experience, you will have the opportunity to work through an on-line simulation of the patient pathway/journey for the particular condition that you will be studying. Simulations have been developed by a collaboration of Universities and NHS Trusts across the West Midlands as part of the CITEC patient pathways project. Whilst a simulation may have been developed with the patient pathway at one particular Trust in mind, pathways are very similar from Trust to Trust and should be relevant to your particular location. All include principles of direct booking, one-stop clinics, day case investigation, patient-centred care using patient process pathways and collaborative practice.

Once you have logged onto the website, read the introductory information and the click onto the relevant tab at the top. Follow the on-line instructions, working your way through the exercises and, where appropriate, discussing your answers as a group before submitting them.

During the simulation, you will see videos of interactions between the patient and different health care professionals, whilst watching consider the communication that occurs and attempt to relate what you see to your own clinical practice.

Once you have completed the ‘simulation, it is important that you take time to complete the evaluation section as an individual. Your views will allow us to improve the simulation for future groups of students.

On completion of the evaluation, you will be able to download or print off a certificate of completion for your portfolio or other learning record.
Attendance Record

Case Studies in Patient Pathways Clinical Experience Programme

Name ..............................................................................

Professional Group......................................................

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* please arrange for each attendance signed by the clinician leading the clinic or session
LEARNING PROMPTS

Whilst your clinical experience will vary depending on your placement Trust, the core of each pathway will be common to all Trusts. On the pages that follow, you will find activities to undertake and items to consider that will help to structure your learning as you attend the major clinics, meetings and theatre sessions associated with the patient pathway for breast cancer and related conditions.

During your visits to the various clinics, complete as many of the following activities as you can. Your placement co-ordinator will tell you if any of the activities listed are not appropriate in your particular Trust, or of other activities that may be available that are not listed here.

If possible, attach yourself to one patient (you may be allocated a patient to ‘follow’) so that you can observe the patient pathway at first hand.
IN THE BREAST CLINIC

a) What happens when the patient arrives in clinic?

b) Spend some time talking to ‘your’ patient, and try to obtain the following information:
   - What are the symptoms that have brought them to clinic?
   - How where they referred to the clinic
   - What is their previous medical history?
   - What is their social history?
   - What are the patient’s main concerns?
   - What is the patient’s understanding of their condition?

c) Either the Consultant or the Specialist Nurse will see the patient.
   - What questions do they ask?
   - Consider the information gained by yourself and the Consultant/ Specialist Nurse. Does it differ?
d) How is the patient examined?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

e) What were the ‘clinical findings’ from this examination?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

f) What is an FNA

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

g) What happens to the sample?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

h) Accompany your patient to the Imaging Department. What happens to the patient here?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

i) Does ‘your’ patient require any further investigations?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

j) What are the overall results for ‘your’ patient?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
k) What is the treatment plan for ‘your’ patient?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETING (MDT)
During the MDT reflect on the following points:
   o Who was present at the MDT meeting?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
   o What are their roles?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
   o What are the benefits of MDT working?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
   o What decision was made regarding ‘your’ patient

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
   o What did you learn from attending the MDT?

______________________________________________________________
FINALLY…

We would like to thank you for participating in the Case Studies in Patient Pathways Clinical Experience Programme. We hope you enjoyed it and found it beneficial to your professional development.