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Introduction

Research is a core component of all mature specialties, and a key part of good clinical care. Patient outcomes have been shown to be better in hospitals that are research active, where there is higher staff satisfaction, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) now includes clinical research activity within its remit for hospital inspections.

Compared to many more established specialties, academic emergency medicine is young and dynamic. We no longer need to rely on the evidence base generated in other disciplines using different populations. Those working in emergency care are best placed to know what questions to ask. To achieve our aims, research needs to be embedded in everyday emergency care.

Standards

1. Emergency Departments must have a designated research lead and must be actively recruiting to NIHR Portfolio research studies.
2. All major trauma centres and university affiliated hospitals must have an EM research lead with job planned time and appropriate infrastructure support. They must be involved in research programs and should be consistently recruiting to NIHR Portfolio research studies.

Recommendations

1. Research should be embedded in everyday emergency care
2. All clinicians practising emergency medicine should be able to access and undertake research
3. The opportunity to take part in research should be available to all of our patients.
4. Research infrastructure, including the availability of research nurses to support recruitment to research studies, should be in place. The average emergency department involved in research should aim to have research nurse cover from 0900-1700, five days per week.
5. In addition, all clinicians working in emergency care should have access to a journal club, where recent evidence is critically appraised and implications for clinical practice are identified.

Background

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine fully supports the concept that research is a core component of good clinical care. Research should be embedded in everyday emergency medicine; all clinicians should be able to access and undertake research, and the opportunity to take part in research should be available to all of our patients. The opportunity to participate in research studies should include all areas of the department, including the paediatric emergency department.

References

1. *RCEM Research Strategy 2020. RCEM. 2019.*