

Helen Dutton
Macmillan lung cancer nurse specialist

**Anticipatory medications at the end of life:
nurses' knowledge and understanding
about their use in an acute hospital.**

Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health
Research and Care (CLAHRC) Greater
Manchester

Project aims and objectives



National Institute for
Health Research

Have they changed since the start of the internship, if so, how and why?

How have you refined your aims and objectives?

Refined idea since start of internship

- Clearer idea that little evidence in acute hospitals.
- Research has been done in community using focus groups
- Found that although recommend 4 core drugs not evidence based
- Common in palliative care/end of life care
- Focus groups often combined with individual interviews

- Aim to keep project small and manageable

- Literature search – anticipatory medication, end of life, care of dying, nurse’s experience, focus groups
- Reviewed relevant bodies websites e.g. Marie Curie, NICE for latest guidance, etc
- Sourced articles – takes most time
- Read and summarised literature to make it easier to refer back to
- Emailed Trust R&D department – viewed as service evaluation no need for ethics
- Met with Mike Spence – fits with CLAHRC priorities, useful people to contact, selling idea as service development
- Draft copies of consent and participant information list
- Enlisted colleague to help with focus groups and be observer
- Used resources on library website to refresh research skills/knowledge

What do you plan to do in the coming months?

- STOP looking for further literature/evidence.
- Critique key articles.
- Review focus groups as methodology.
- Draft an interview schedule.
- Decide on which wards and contact them.
- Decide on sample and how to get them involved.
- Arrange rooms and facilities to hold focus groups.
- Find out where to get digital tape recorder from.
- Find out about getting tapes transcribed.

Resources

What resources have you accessed and used to help deliver your project objectives, for example, blackboard, CLAHRC staff.

- University website for searches and accessing articles
- CLAHRC website
- Local academic library
- CLAHRC staff

Obstacles/challenges faced

What have been your key obstacles/problems/challenges/issues that you have faced? This could be in relation to access, support, managing time, working with others etc.

- R and D department
- Access to printer to get articles
- Support from those involved in palliative research already

Reflections

How have you found the internship?
Have you had any lightbulb moments?
What would you like to share with others that might help them?

- Enjoying think in different way and about different subject
- Would like to explore working in research
- Research done in community so can be done in acute hospital on smaller scale.
- Plan what doing each week
- Summarise articles in a way you can refer back without having to wade through each article, also can focus on key research

Next steps & support

What future support might you need from CLAHRC or others?

- Reviewing participant and consent forms
- Reviewing interview strategy
- Advice on practical issues
- Help analysing data for themes