

ABSTRACT

TITLE: Determining the theoretical and practical feasibility of implementing a family initiated escalation of care scheme to detect and refer patient deterioration in hospital: application of the MRC framework

Background

Families are recognised as key stakeholders in detecting and responding to patient deterioration. To improve patient safety a number of family initiated escalation of care schemes have been developed and implemented in hospitals. However, the majority of these schemes have been developed and implemented with limited stakeholder involvement, underpinning theory or structured research approach.

Aim

The aim of this study is to determine the underlying theory, composition, process, attitudes, and educational needs of patients, relatives and healthcare staff regarding the feasibility and acceptability of the development and implementation of a RRS family initiated programme to improve the detection and escalation of patient deterioration on general hospital wards.

Design

A collective case study approach of two acute wards in a hospital in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland using the development phase of the MRC framework.

Methods

A variety of mixed methods will be used including individual and focus group interviews, documentary analysis and online survey. A purposive sample of patients, relatives and healthcare staff (managers, outreach, nurses and doctors) will be recruited to test the acceptability and feasibility of a family initiated educational resource in practice. Data will be analysed in NVivo and SPSS.

Results

The findings of the feasibility study will provide identification of potential facilitators and barriers to practical, referral and educational issues prior to implementation.