Placement profile

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Names and roles	**Johanna Flaherty, Therapy Team Leader**
Organisations	Anglian Community Enterprise

Placement overview

One of my colleagues had recently hosted a nonclinical placement focusing on a service development project and it occurred to me that I had a topic for analysis and service development within Community Rehabilitation that could potentially become an opportunity for students to experience data analysis and quality improvement. This was the use of the Patient Activation Measure (PAM) as a tool for supporting self-management when formulating a care plan with a patient. It is a tool that had been trialled in our service and I wasn't sure if it was providing a meaningful benefit to our patients and their ability to self-manage. To review this, an in-depth data analysis of patient care was required to audit whether the PAM level was influencing the care plan.

In preparation for the placement, I organised some support from the Quality Improvement team and arranged some clinical experience for the students out with the Community Rehab team. I organised IT equipment and system access which would be vital for the students to be able to carry out the project. I knew that the placement would be remote and wanted to make sure that there was regular virtual contact and support, so I created a group on Microsoft Teams for us to save shared files and send messages between the people involved. The students undertook the PAM e-learning training themselves prior to the placement and had the opportunity to attend a training webinar with the PAM licensing company, Insignia, during the placement. After induction and some initial clarification of project objectives and how the effectiveness could be measured, the students took the project on and extended the reach of the project far beyond what I had expected. We had regular meetings and 1:1s on Teams as well as regular support from the placement officer. The fact that we weren't always meeting face to face did not seem to cause any barriers to maintaining a good connection throughout the placement.

I have now been able to provide insight to the use of the PAM in Community Rehabilitation and make recommendations to senior managers about it's continued use and possible roll out to other community services. In short, the placement has been a success in terms of providing a useful and unique learning opportunity for the students, as well as the achievement of a high level of analysis for the benefit of the service and the organisation.

Supervision: 2:1, face to face and non-patient facing elements, long armed supervision and peer learning.

Lessons learnt:

1. You can still feel connected during remote/virtual consultations
2. To consider support from non-clinical departments such as Quality Improvement
3. Preparation is key

Top tips for others:

- "Prepare for the placement to ensure all IT is in place if delivering remotely"
- "Review the university assessment criteria and see how it can be made applicable in a different non-clinical placement"

Date submitted: March 2021