



Staff views on health promotion in emergency care settings – a qualitative scoping study.

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BACKGROUND

Frontline NHS staff can recognise appropriate times and situations in which to engage with individuals and help them on the pathway to improving their health and wellbeing.¹ Emergency care staff are tasked with exploring opportunities for health promotion to be an integral function of their care planning.² Whilst the environment of the emergency department can prove challenging when considering health promotion activities, it is also this precise environment that affords an opportunity for a 'teachable moment' for health behaviour change.³

METHODS

six one-to-one interviews with emergency department nurses and paramedics analysed thematically



FINDINGS

Two main themes:

1. Health promotion as part of the role of emergency care staff

- staff have the time to engage with health promotion activities and see it as part of their job
- staff see the potential for reducing the need for future emergency care if patients are engaged, directed to relevant health education material and signposted to external agencies for further support.

2. Barriers to health promotion in emergency care

- lack of training and knowledge
- lack of standardisation and a system-wide approach

This work has led to an NIHR funded study exploring barriers to health promotion advice delivered by staff working in urgent care and emergency departments, the promotED study. This study is currently recruiting staff to a staff survey and qualitative interviews and patients to qualitative interviews.

<https://www.uwe.ac.uk/research/centres-and-groups/chcr/research-themes/emergency-care/promoted>

References

1. Making Every Contact Count (MECC): Consensus statement. Produced by Public Health England, NHS England and Health Education England, with the support of partner organisations. April 2016
2. NHS The Long-Term Plan January 2019
3. Flocke SA, Clark E, Antognoli E, Mason MJ, Lawson PJ, Smith S, Cohen DJ Teachable moments for health behaviour change and intermediate patient outcomes. *Patient Educ Couns*. PMC 2015 May 12.

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