



Category: Communicating Effectively with Patients and Families

Award Reference Number: 991
Region: Midlands
Disease: Diabetes paediatric
Organisation Type: Community
Intervention: Support Group
Key words: Walsall

Walsall Paediatric Diabetes Project

Walsall Community Health NHS

Setting:

Walsall Community Health provides community based health services to the people of Walsall.

The Community Specialist Diabetes Team consists of adult and paediatric diabetes nursing and podiatry services and works in close partnership with the acute team to deliver specialist diabetes care and education.

Introduction:

Evidence suggests that using continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (insulin pump therapy) instead of taking two or more daily insulin injections, increases the chance of achieving better glycaemic control, and improves quality of life for the user. Walsall has 108 children with type 1 diabetes, several of whom are on insulin pump therapy. It is estimated that by the end of 2010 Walsall will have 20% of its paediatric caseload on pump therapy.

The Trust launched a new policy for pump therapy in spring 2010 which supports the drive to get more patients using insulin pumps, however the change of treatment regimes can be difficult for children and their families. A lot of additional support is required at the time of treatment transition in order to optimise outcome and there was no support mechanism in place other than the core team. We wanted to develop a support group/network for children and their families who are on/about to begin insulin pump therapy or want to find out more about this type of treatment.

Nominated Contact: *Helen Bladon, Diabetes Service lead, Walsall Community Health NHS*