

Educational experience of Paediatric Specialty Trainees in outpatient clinic settings. Is there room for improvement?

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Background

Outpatient clinic experience is vital to paediatric specialty training, especially given current trends towards managing patients on an outpatient basis. Standardised provision for outpatient clinic training can be beneficial.

Aims

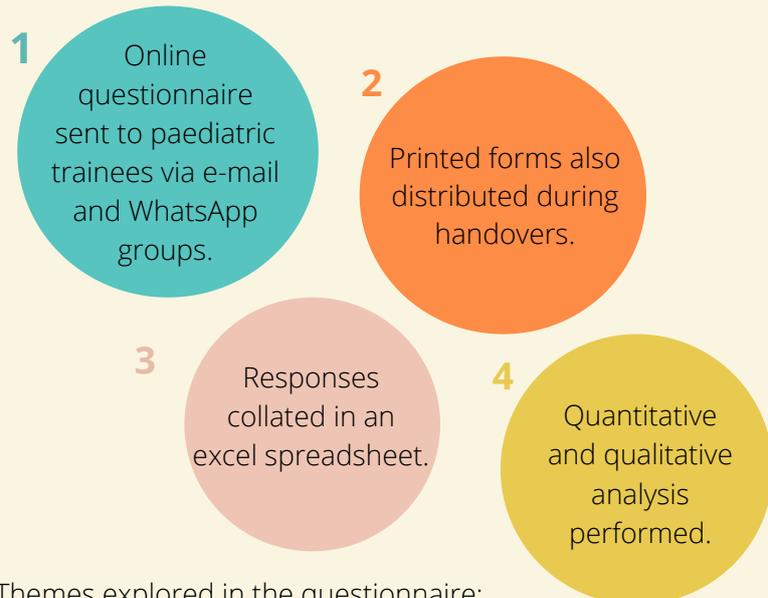
To evaluate:

- Paediatric trainees' outpatient clinic experience at a tertiary paediatric centre, Alder Hey Children's Hospital (AHCH).
- Educational opportunities or barriers to achieving training within this context.

To quantify:

- The average number of outpatient clinics attended.

Methods



Themes explored in the questionnaire:

- Gender, working status, specialty and training grade
- Opportunities/ barriers and roles during outpatient clinic experience
- Educational activities and future developments in that context

Results



Data were collected pre-COVID19 and refer to face-to-face outpatient clinics.

32 responses in total (62.7% of paediatric trainees in AHCH)

All medical specialties & training levels represented

- 53%** scheduled by timetable to attend outpatient clinic
- 63%** attended outpatient clinic 1-2 times/ month
- 50%** worried that they would let colleagues down/ leave unfinished work on the ward



ST1-ST3 level: **42%** observing role
ST4 - ST8 level: **35%** assigned patients from consultant's list, **30%** had own patient list

Educational aspect:

- 38%** - Assessment opportunities
- 34%** - Received feedback



Overall outpatient clinic experience rating:

7/10



Future developments:

- 75%** - Scheduled clinics
- 66%** - Teaching clinics

Conclusions:

- Opportunities for outpatient clinic attendance in AHCH are present but not on a regular basis.
- Barriers including anxiety leaving ward duties and/ or unfinished work on the ward.
- Increased utilisation of remote clinics may improve room availability and should be considered in revised curriculum.
- Educational opportunities in 1/3 of cases.
- Suggested future developments including scheduled clinics and teaching clinics.
- An App has been designed to increase outpatient clinic opportunities and assist with the establishment of designated teaching clinics.