

Parallel Sessions C
C1 – Exploring the Clinical Librarian Model

Friday, September 20, Room B, 15.45

Clinical Librarians Bring the World of Information to the Patient's Bedside: A UK Experience

Ward, L; Honeybourne, C J, Verschuere, J

Ward, Linda: University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Education Centre Library, Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Rd, Leicester, LE5 4P, UK, lmw12@le.ac.uk

This indicative title accurately describes the work of the clinical librarian (CL); managing information overload and providing health professionals with quality filtered research evidence from around the world. It is provided where and when it is needed, answering questions about the care of an individual or group of patients and supporting evidence-based practice. Attending ward rounds, audit and other clinical meetings, a CL becomes part of the multidisciplinary health care team, understanding the information needs of the other members of the team and the context of the questions asked of the literature. The role of the CL is to objectively present the evidence, enabling busy clinicians to make the best decisions with and for their patients. Benefits to clinicians are in overcoming one of the principal barriers to information use in practice i.e. lack of time to carry out literature searches. In addition, CLs contribute skills in and knowledge of: Information retrieval · The range of resources available · Research methodology and appraisal. The presence of an information professional in the clinical team stimulates a questioning and learning culture, and provides a mechanism for questions to be answered, central to the concepts of clinical governance and evidence-based practice. In this paper, examples will illustrate how a CL has impacted on patient care and contributed to the use of best evidence in the clinical setting. We will describe the development and evaluation of our clinical librarian service, which has adapted previous models to provide a cost effective service for the UK NHS.