

IMPACTE Case Study

Management of acute febrile illness in children

Encouraging the implementation of best practice in primary care, IMPACTE is a peer-led tool through which GPs examine evidence in small group, self-education sessions commonly within a single practice. At Purbeck Health Centre, actions agreed at an IMPACTE session on the management of acute febrile illness in children were taken forward and implemented at practice level.

Background



“Minimising the pitfalls of telephone triage ...” (Dr Iyamabo, IMPACTE lead Purbeck Health Centre & MK CCG Performance Lead GP)

Our practice is in the process of switching to a new appointment system, Dr First, which involves the clinician triaging all patients first before offering face to face consultations. We needed to ensure all clinicians are aware of the ‘red flag’ symptoms of meningococcal disease when assessing children with acute febrile illness in order to minimise the chance of missed diagnoses.

Description

Evidence brought to the IMPACTE session: Results of a cross-sectional study in UK primary care to determine the diagnostic value of individual symptoms in children presenting to their GP with an acute infection.¹

Actions agreed at the IMPACTE session: Use ‘red flag’ symptoms to help identify meningococcal disease when assessing a febrile child.

Actions agreed at practice level: Roll-out a protocol across the practice.



“We have now developed a protocol for triaging and management of children with acute febrile illness in our practice and all clinicians are aware of the ‘red flag’ symptoms to look out for.” (Dr Iyamabo)

The screenshot shows an IMPACTE Group Summary document. It includes a 'Discussion Points' section with a list of symptoms and their diagnostic value. Below this is an 'Implementation Plan' section with a table for tracking actions. The table has columns for 'Action', 'Who for', and 'Date for'. Action 1 is 'Use red flag symptoms to help identify meningococcal disease when assessing a febrile child'. The document also includes a 'Summary of what has been agreed' section and a footer with the IMPACTE logo and contact information.

Extract from the IMPACTE session summary published on Quality.MK

¹ Which early ‘red flag’ symptoms identify children with meningococcal disease in primary care? *British Journal of General Practice* 2011 March 1; 61(584): e97–e104

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Key points for clinical practice

- Consider using 'red flag' symptoms to help identify meningococcal disease when triaging a child with acute febrile illness.
- Consider rolling out a practice protocol.
- See Purbeck Health Centre's protocol for the triaging and management of children with acute febrile illness.

Key points for successful IMPACTE groups

- Nominate a GP IMPACTE lead in the practice; the group and lead are supported by a Primary Care Librarian.
- Peer review evidence to make appropriate changes in practice to help improve patient care.
- Use evidence-based changes to practice agreed by an IMPACTE group to make the case for change at practice level.
- Share best practice by publishing summaries of IMPACTE sessions to the web.
- Demonstrate implementation of national guidelines and best evidence to patients and other stakeholders.

Contact

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