

An Educational Initiative Relating to Congenital Heart Disease for Neonatal Staff

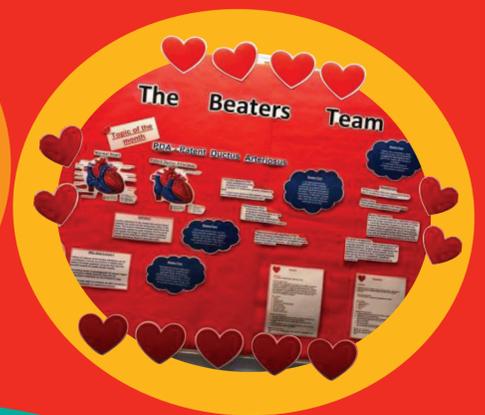
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Introduction:

Antenatal detection rates for Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) have improved significantly over the past few years, resulting in an increase in neonates being delivered in the Specialist Congenital Centre for Yorkshire and Humber and subsequently being admitted to the Regional Cardiac Neonatal Unit. With this increase in workload there was a higher demand for neonatal staff to have a better knowledge base and understanding of these conditions and implications to caring for neonates with complex heart disease. There was also a need to improve the cardiac pathway prior to patients moving to the specialist cardiac unit.

Initiative:

A team of nurses was formed, **"The Beaters"**, who worked collaboratively to create a resource file containing key fact sheets about CHD, its medications, treatments, glossary of terms and varying cardiac pathways. Once completed, an awareness week was launched in October 2018, with the aim of promoting this resource file within the unit. The aim of this initiative was to develop confidence and skills of neonatal staff caring for babies with congenital heart disease. During this week, twice daily teachings were given relating to specific cardiac topics which were delivered by specialist members of the multidisciplinary team. Quizzes were run throughout the day and night with prizes given to winning participants, to encourage engagement.



Evaluation:

The feedback received was excellent and due to its success, **"The Beaters"** were asked to present this at the Cardiac Network meeting for Yorkshire and Humber in Hull, January 2019, where neonatal staff from other neonatal units throughout Yorkshire attended.

Future:

The resource file is currently being reproduced which will be available on 18 neonatal units in the 18 District General Hospitals within the Yorkshire & Humber Congenital Heart Disease Network, with the aim of educating staff and improving care throughout the Network for babies with CHD and their families.