The BEACH™ course for primary care will teach healthcare staff to be alert, systematic and escalate concerns appropriately.

**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE**

1. Background

The roles & responsibilities of healthcare staff are increasing and expanding. Healthcare staff working within primary care are undertaking vital signs observations and assessing potentially quite unwell patients more frequently, receiving various standards & amount of education & training to interpret and consider the results and respond appropriately. Research suggests that recognition of the deteriorating person is often delayed or not escalated timely or to the right person. The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD), report in 2015 “Just Say Sepsis” has argued that in order to increase patient safety a ‘early warning score’ should be used to identify sick patients across both primary and secondary care, as a basis for communication and to use a common language to communicate information especially those at risk of deterioration.

2. Intervention

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has developed a half day BEACH™ course which incorporates:

- Use of an Early Warning Score (EWS)
- Recognition
- Response
- Escalation
- Communication tools such as **SBAR** (Situation, Background, Assessment and Recommendation).

BEACH™ has been adapted for primary care in collaboration with Health Education England Wessex (HEE) and has been delivered to over 36 healthcare staff working within GP surgeries across the Wessex region in 2018. There are another 5 courses booked for 2019 to include IOW and Dorset.

3. Results

The graph below illustrates the confidence scales results of pre-and post course on 3 separate BEACH™ courses from March 2018 – July 2018.

**Confidence Scale Graph**

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<td>4.8</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
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- Overall how confident are you at using a structured A - Defg & H system of assessment? 3.3 - 8.6
- How confident are you at recognising soft signs of deterioration in a patient, and understanding when taking a set of observations is required? (outside of the NEWS system) 4.8 - 9.1
- How confident are you at understanding how to calculate a NEWS score? 3.7 - 9.2
- How confident are you at understanding SBAR and using it as a tool for communication? 2.9 - 8.9
- How confident are you at escalating patient deterioration concerns to the right person at the appropriate time? 6.4 - 9.3

**Comments from attendees**

“more confident with relaying a problem to the GP”

“It’s about prevention as things can change so quickly if we can prevent an admission by early recognition and intervention it has to be good for the patient”

“This has been one of the most informative courses I have been on”

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