Paediatric Epilepsy And Core Evaluation Service (PEACES) Questionnaire

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Aim:
To use PEACES Questionnaire to understand the perceptions the impact of an epilepsy diagnosis has on users of the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital (LDUH) Epilepsy Services and how the responses can be used to improve the service.

Background: The LDUH Epilepsy Service provides treatment and support to over 300 young people and their families in Luton, South Bedfordshire and neighbouring counties. The Paediatric Epilepsy and Core Evaluation Service (PEACES) quality improvement initiative is a questionnaire that aims to investigate parent/carer and patient perceptions of the Paediatric Epilepsy Services offered by the LDUH. It also captures information about the impact epilepsy has on patients’ feelings about themselves and the effect it has on their daily lives. There are also questions regarding compliance with medication. The incentive for the questionnaire is based on responses following first round of the national Epilepsy12 study.

Methodology: A pilot questionnaire was conducted at LDUH’s Paediatric Outpatient Department over a 4-week period in September 2017. The questionnaire was offered to young people aged 0-18 years old with an established diagnosis of epilepsy attending a follow-up appointment. Young people attending the clinic for the first time and those with only one seizure were excluded. Paper copies of the questionnaire were provided prior to the clinic appointment. All responses were anonymous. There were 3 separate sets of questions: one for the parents/carers (22 questions), one for children aged 6-12 years (12 questions) and one for children over 12 years old (13 questions). Answers were either yes/no, multiple choice or free text.

Results:
Responses were collected from: 25 parents/carers, 7 children aged 12+, 4 responses aged 6-12. The remainder of children either too young or unable to answer. Families of 14 female and 11 male patients participated.

Conclusion and Future Development
The PEACES questionnaire provides a thorough overview of LDUH’s epilepsy service users and helps facilitators of the service to identify areas for improvement and whether initiatives proposed by the service would be well received. Having the questions in an electronic format will make the questionnaire more inviting for younger children, direct people to free text responses (to provide more qualitative data) and makes analysis less time consuming. Given LDUH’s large Asian population, questionnaires in other languages would also be beneficial. Use of colour and illustrations would also help make it more child-friendly. We look forward to observing the