

NO-2

Preparing parents for discharge from hospital with their infant after complex cardiac surgery using the Congenital Heart Assessment Tool. An online learning resource for health care professionals

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Introduction

The aim of this session is to present an online learning resource developed within a portfolio of research around the Congenital Heart Assessment Tool (CHAT). The CHAT, an early warning tool for parents to use at home to monitor their infant following the first stage of surgery for complex Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), was developed in 2012 and implemented within a feasibility Study (phase one) at one specialist centre during 2013-2015 (Gaskin, Daniels & Barron 2016; Gaskin Wray & Barron, 2018). Phase two of the project was to evaluate the CHAT in four children's cardiac centres in the UK as part of a Health Improvement Project during 2017 (Smith et al, 2018), resulting in an updated version of the tool (CHAT2).

Methods

This third phase of the project involved development of an online learning resource, which was funded by the University and created in collaboration with Little Hearts Matter, a UK CHD Charity. The aim being to enable wider implementation of CHAT across the UK, through consistent education of health care professionals who are involved in the preparation of parents and families for their infant's discharge.

The learning objectives of the online learning resource are for health care professionals to have:

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of complex CHD in order to teach parents how to spot signs of clinical deterioration in their infant whilst at home
- Developed an understanding of the CHAT, who it is for, what it does, and why it is used
- Learnt how to use CHAT when teaching parents prior to discharge
- Learnt how to use CHAT to support decision making when taking telephone calls from families at home

The online learning resource recognises different learning styles and incorporates a range of self directed activities, video clips demonstrating how to use CHAT and links to a breadth of supporting resources. The resource is currently being piloted and a staged implementation and evaluation strategy is being planned for 2019.

This session will provide an update on the progress of the implementation of this online learning resource, which could subsequently be made available internationally.