

CONCORDANCE WITH DVA(NI) ADVICE IN COMMUNITY ADDICTIONS

A Quality Improvement Project

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Background

It is the legal duty of the licence holder to inform the DVA(NI) about certain conditions such as drug/alcohol dependency and for health care professionals (DVA(NI), 2020) and doctors to inform them of this duty (GMC, 2015, DOH, 2017, DVA(NI), 2020).



Results (Cycle 1)

2019 (n=33)

20/33 (61%) were male, 13/33/ (39%) were female.

14/33 (42%) were on Methadone and 19/33 (58%) were on Buprenorphine.

100% of patients were informed of their obligation to notify DVA(NI) by their keyworker before OST initiation and by their doctor during treatment.

14/33 (42%) had a current licence to drive

8/14 (56%) had informed DVA(NI), 2/8 (25%) did not know how to and 6/8 (75%) were afraid of repercussions.

Action

DVA(NI) advice and copy of their original signed patient agreement was given to patients.

Aim

To determine concordance of stable patients on Oral Substitute Therapy (OST) with DVA(NI) advice.

To identify if keyworkers impart DNLNI advice as per their professional responsibilities.

Results (Cycle 2)

2020 (n=37)

25/37 (68%) were male and 12/37 (32%) were female.

15/37 940% were on methadone and 22/37 (60%) were on buprenorphine.

100% of patients were advised of their obligation to notify DVA(NI) by their keyworker before OST initiation and by medical staff during treatment.

15/37 (40%) had a current licence to drive.

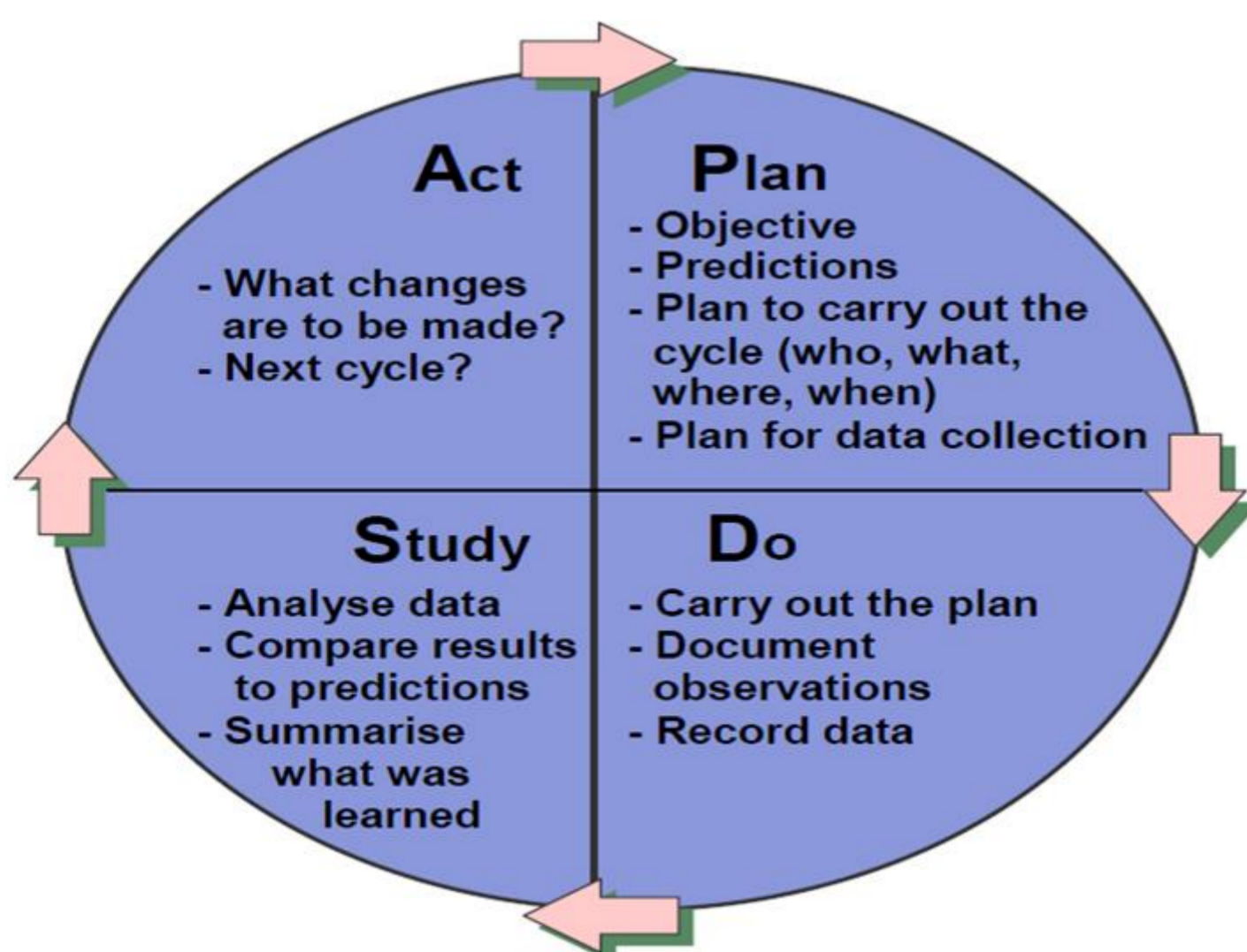
7/15 (47%) had informed the DVA(NI), 2/8 (25%) 'forgot' and 6/8 (75%) could not provide any reason.

Methodology

Review of medical and keyworker documentation. Face to face review of those not concordant with DVA(NI) advice also took place. Those with 'no driving' notifications or not medically fit to drive were excluded from the data. The Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle for improvement approach was used.

Conclusions

There was 100% staff compliance in their obligations toward the DVA(NI). There are broadly similar outcomes in patient self referral to DVA(NI) between 2019 and 2020 despite specific intervention. Patients will continue to receive a signed copy of their DVA(NI) agreement. There is a need for patients to be reassured regarding DVA(NI) regulations by their keyworkers. Dissemination can also be achieved through Peer Recovery Groups. The results of this will be captured in Cycle 3 in 2021.



Next step

