

Evidence Brief

(1 page: which may be used for dissemination by HSC R&D Division)

Why did we start?

(The need for the PPI initiative and/or why the work was commissioned or purpose of attending event/conference if a PPI representative)

Parkinson's Disease is a common neurological condition that often causes stiffness, tremor and slow movement. People living with Parkinson's Disease are likely to encounter nursing students throughout their journey from pre-diagnosis to death. Despite this, there is a paucity of evidence about current practice in Parkinson's Disease education amongst nursing students. Therefore, we wanted to work with people living with Parkinson's Disease to help develop education for undergraduate nursing students at Queen's University Belfast.

What did we do?

(Methods - how your initiative/or attendance at event/conference met any of the UK Public Involvement Standards)

We co-designed an audio podcast with people with lived experience, PD advocates, student nurses and academic staff. The team consisted of more than twenty people. The team worked to co-design a 75-minute audio podcast about PD. It was comprised of three main segments where nursing students hosted interviews with a person living with PD, a carer for someone with PD and a PD specialist nurse. Interviews were scripted by the co-design team to ensure all learning outcomes identified by the group were fulfilled and limited repetition occurred. The audio podcast is now hosted by Parkinson's UK:
<https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/professionals/events-and-learning/podcast-learn-about-parkinsons-excellence-network>

What answer did we get?

(Please state the outcome of this initiative/and/or what was/you gained from this event or conference as a PPI representative)

The audio podcast has been listened to more than 3000 times, is embedded in the year one programme and we have written an article (under review) about the impact. 332 Student nurses completed a before and after questionnaire related to their knowledge, self-efficacy and empathy about Parkinson's. Before listening, students posted a mean score of 52%. This mean increased to 80% post-test. These findings were statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), demonstrating significant increases in Parkinson's Disease awareness after listening. Findings from focus groups (35 nursing students) suggested that the audio podcast improved empathy and practice towards people with Parkinson's Disease

What should be done now?

(Practice/Policy Implications and/or Recommendations for PPI)

We hosted a dissemination webinar on Parkinson's Awareness Day 2022 to release the audiopodcast and this was attended by more than 350 people. Podcasts are increasingly being recognised as an effective platform to facilitate the education of undergraduate nursing students. Using podcasting as an educational resource has many benefits including ease of production, feasibility for listeners and ability to disseminate data to a wide audience. Despite this, there is a paucity of literature available on the effective evaluation of using podcasts for healthcare education, as well as limited evidence of PD education for undergraduate student nurses. This study highlights how podcasting as an educational resource for undergraduate student nurses is a successful way of developing knowledge of PD. The lack of empirical research on innovative approaches to PD education is surprising due to the increasing prevalence of the disease. This study may act as a driving force towards the development of innovative approaches to healthcare education, specifically in relation to PD, enabling nursing students to recognise, assess and manage PD care effectively