Summary

IMPARTS is a King’s Health Partners’ service development initiative designed to integrate mental and physical healthcare in research, training, and clinical services. The aim is to pioneer a new model of service delivery that delivers ‘whole person care’ and promotes research as a natural outgrowth of clinical practice.

To do this we have:
- implemented a web-based screening system that facilitates routine collection of patient-reported mental and physical health outcomes, with real-time feedback to guide clinical care;
- developed bespoke mental health pathways for diverse physical healthcare services;
- delivered tailored training for clinical teams to help them address commonly encountered mental health problems in their patient population;
- developed a portfolio of self-help materials tailored to address psychological distress in the context of specific physical health problems;
- benchmarked King’s Health Partners’ IT infrastructure to real-time output of patient-reported outcomes to the Electronic Patient Record;
- provided a rich data reservoir for research and clinical outcomes, and developed a research governance framework for analysis of acute trust clinical data;
- developed a consent for contact platform whereby patients are routinely asked whether they would be willing to participate in research;
- mapped the current process of mental health-related services across King’s College Hospital and GU’s and St Thomas’, and made recommendations for service development and strategic investment.

Examples of excellence

Development of web-based screening interface and mental health care pathways

IMPARTS has developed a web-based interface to screen medical outpatient records for mental health problems and other symptoms on an iPad, which they have called IMPRINT. The data collected are used to inform patients’ care planning or referral to mental health services. Screenings are performed alongside a case pathway to guide the management of psychological problems identified through screening. The data collected can be used to inform service improvement initiatives in patient care and research projects. The distance principle is that patients are given a level of need and a set of action items.

Treating for non-mental healthcare professionals and tailored self-help materials

In a primary care setting, clinicians need to be trained in delivering the results and engaging the patient in a discussion about their scores and what they should do.

To address this, IMPARTS have developed a portfolio of self-help materials for physical healthcare teams to use with their patients. These materials are then used by the psychological interventions team to deliver psychological support for patients with psychological distress in the context of their physical condition.

Meeting the tripartite mission

Education and training

IMPARTS aims to develop a resource for clinical teams to use in education and training, with the aim of mapping psychological health and care to the data and confidence in psychological issues.

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- Developmental clinician and research communities:
  - IMPRTS has developed a portfolio of psychotherapy skills for non-mental healthcare professionals to use with their patients. These materials are then used by the psychological interventions team to deliver psychological support for patients with psychological distress in the context of their physical condition.

Optimising IMPARTS in Electronic Patient Record (EPR)

To optimise IMPARTS, we intend to deliver structured web pages within the EPR systems of each trust which can be populated by the IMPARTS data. Such fields would, ideally, have the capacity to describe graphically trends over time. As a result IMPARTS could be linked to decision support tools in EPR.

Driving research and development

- Data collected through IMPARTS screening will drive research and promote continuous improvement in clinical practice. By routinely capturing the experiences of all patients, IMPARTS will increase the pace of evidence generation and implementation.
- The IMPARTS data are collected in an accessible and adaptable format, which can be used for both clinical and research purposes.
- The IMPARTS data are collected in a format that is fully compatible with the EPR systems of each trust, allowing for seamless integration into daily clinical practice.
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Plans and priorities for the next five years

Our priorities are:

- Extending and sustaining screening: So far IMPARTS has been a modestly scaled mental health project based in the acute trusts. We have had great enthusiasm from clinicians, but for the programme to be extended and sustained, the screening infrastructure to be known as “normal business” is King’s Health Partners. This does not need much in terms of additional resource – more a commitment to make it happen with buy-in from board level to the clinic floor.
- Optimising IMPARTS in Electronic Patient Record (EPR): We intend to develop structured web pages within the EPR systems of each trust which can be populated by the IMPARTS data. Such fields would, ideally, have the capacity to describe graphically trends over time. As a result IMPARTS could be linked to decision support tools in EPR.
- Driving research and development: Data collected through IMPARTS screening will drive research and promote continuous improvement in clinical practice. By routinely capturing the experiences of all patients, IMPARTS will increase the pace of evidence generation and implementation.

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