Infection Prevention Society

NIVAS National Infusion and Vascular Access Society

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IV passports: a multi – geographical/disciplinary collaborative for clear communication and improvement of patient outcomes

Authors: Valya Weston, Carole Hallam, Susan Rowlands, Adrienne Cousins

Introduction

In today's climate, vascular access and therapy spans the whole health economy. In the UK, patients with vascular access devices (VADs) frequently move between primary and secondary care highlighting the need for clear communication between different sectors of the health economy to optimise patient experience and outcomes.

IV passports already exist, predominantly where there are established IV teams. However, there is a need for the introduction of a standardised document which can be used and understood by all sectors.

Method

Led by the Infection Prevention Society (IPS), a multi- geographical/disciplinary group was established to develop the passport. The aim for the group was to produce a patient held document to aid communications between all healthcare personnel who care for a patient with a VAD; for the document to be a standard for VAD information, communication and on-going care; to assist patient engagement and promote patient centred care.

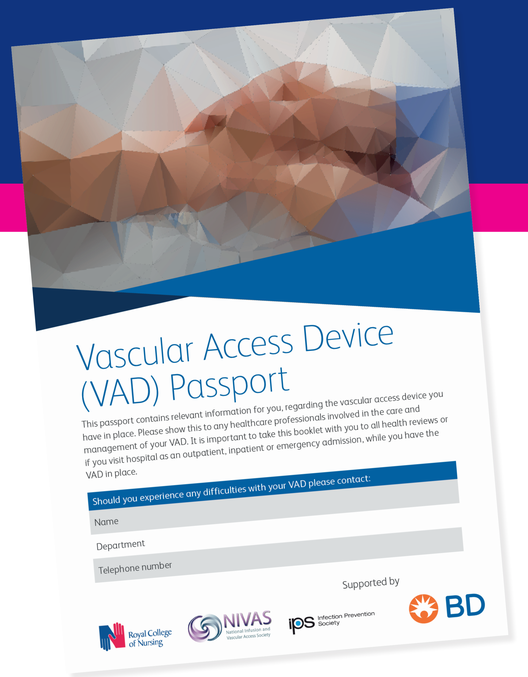
The resulting passport was trialled in 2 hospitals. The trial ran for 8 weeks, and was evaluated using pre and post questionnaires.

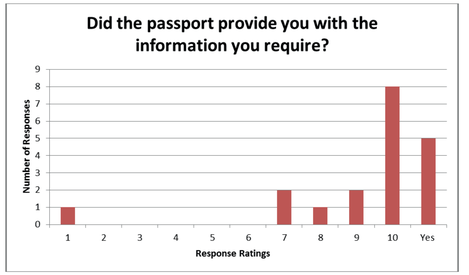
Results

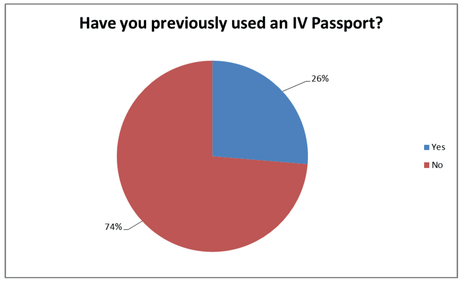
Phase 1 Evaluation found that 74% of staff had not used an IV passport before when questioned before the passport was trialled. However, following the trial 92% of staff reported in the post questionnaire that they had found the passport provided them with the information they required.

Discussion and conclusion

There is a great need for an improvement in communication between healthcare professionals. The IV passport will assist in patients being able to take an active role in their treatment. A further, more extensive evaluation (Phase 2) is now underway and the results of this evaluation will be available at the end of February, with a full launch of the passport in Autumn 2022.







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