

ORIGINAL PAPERS

[REDUCTION OF ORTHOPAEDIC AND RHEUMATOLOGY OUTPATIENT WAITING LISTS - THE NATIONAL MUSCULOSKELETAL PHYSIOTHERAPY TRIAGE INITIATIVE](#)

Brennan et al report on an initiative by 24 clinical specialist physiotherapists (CSPs) across 18 hospital sites. In a 7- year period, 125,852 patients were removed from the orthopaedic and rheumatology waiting list following triage. The authors emphasise the system's effectiveness.

[GP ANSWERING MACHINES: A BARRIER TO ACCESSING DOCTOR-ON-CALL](#)

Smith and Carragher surveyed the quality of 33 GP outgoing answering machine messages. There were technical and communication defects. The problems noted were low volume, excessively fast delivery, mixed instructions, and multiple phone numbers. The authors suggest how the content could be improved.

[STANDARDISING THE USE OF "2222" FOR IN-HOSPITAL CARDIAC ARREST CALLS](#)

Hania et al report that in a survey of 67 hospitals, 52 hospitals use 2222 as a cardiac arrest number. Overall, 14 different cardiac arrest numbers were in use. The authors urge the standard use of 2222 across all hospitals.

[THE EFFECT OF MAINTAINING BASELINE HEART RATE AND BLOOD PRESSURE ON CARDIAC OUTPUT CHANGES DURING SPINAL ANAESTHESIA FOR CAESAREAN SECTION](#)

French-O'Carroll et al measured the cardiac output in 30 women undergoing elective caesarean section under spinal anaesthesia. They found that the cardiac output was preserved when the heart rate was maintained at baseline. They also describe the indications for the use of vasopressors.

[TREATING RHINITIS WITH TOPICAL NASAL SPRAYS - PATIENT KNOWLEDGE, USE AND SATISFACTION](#)

Corbett et al surveyed the use of nasal corticosteroid sprays for rhinitis. Among 100 patients, 89 had no knowledge of the duration of treatment, 55 did not know that the spray contained steroids, 39 stopped treatment in under 2 weeks, and 80 had poor spray technique. The authors urge better instructions for patients.

[AN IBS PATHWAY TO IMPROVE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AND REDUCE ENDOSCOPY DEMAND](#)

McNally et al reviewed the irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) management pathway. A group of patients were recruited from the endoscopy waiting list and assessed for IBS. The selected group was commenced on a low FODMAP diet with a good response. The pathway resulted in 30 cancelled colonoscopies.

[THE NATIONAL HEALTHCARE COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME: AN AUDIT OF INITIAL PERFORMANCE](#)

Gillen et al report on the programme to improve the communication skills of healthcare workers. Six pilot sites delivered modules to 586 participants. The modules employed a skills-based approach using a combination of didactic teaching, role play, group discussion, and video demonstrations. When surveyed, 90% of respondents stated that they would recommend the training to colleagues.

[THE EARLY IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON UROLOGICAL SERVICE PROVISION](#)

Jain et al state that the number of urological admissions during the 3-month period from March 2020 decreased by 23.1% compared with the corresponding period in 2019. However, the Covid-era outpatient activity increased due in part to the use virtual clinics.

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