

A Schwartz Take – Away

Extending the benefits of the Schwartz Round - Clinical Librarian support

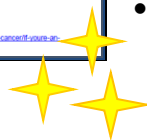
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Background

- Having seen the promotional materials for the first Schwartz Round at Derby, the Clinical Librarian (CL) attended the round through sheer curiosity.
- Impressed with the round, the CL was enthused and wondered how the library could offer the staff/rounds more support...“I wonder if anyone else is doing anything...?”
- A literature search provided the CL with one paper¹, where a librarian in Minneapolis, USA described the “resource list” of additional books and journal articles, which she was using to support the rounds in her organisation.
- The CL thought this was a great idea, so approached the Schwartz Steering group in Derby, who whole-heartedly agreed and welcomed the CL into their fold.



What are we doing?



- The CL is made aware of both the topic and the potential content of the stories to be presented by the panellists for each round ahead of time.
- In time for each round, the CL creates a “further resources” sheet which provides details of a range of resources, both print and electronic, which staff can refer to in future, should the topic under discussion have stimulated their interest, or if they have further questions and want some more information.
- Copies of the printed sheet are available at each round, so attendees can take a copy with them should the wish to. This also allows for sharing with colleagues unable to attend the round.
- This extends the reach of the rounds, allowing attendees to seek out further information if and when they wish to, via a safe, unpressured and non-judgmental format.

¹ Barnard P. Schwartz Rounds: Librarian Roles and Opportunities. Journal of Hospital Librarianship. 2013;13(1): 71-78.

Challenges



Communication

Ensuring the CL was aware of the content for each round in good time was a challenge at the start. The team now has a good process in place, via discussion at steering group meetings and regular contact from the facilitators. This enables the resource sheet to be created embracing a wide range of angles for each topic, reflecting the planned presentations.



Content

Finding the right sort of content for each sheet can be challenging – finding enough, finding variety, and knowing when to stop!

Each sheet aims to have provided suitable web resources, journal papers and books from library stock, intending to encompass a variety of aspects of the topic, without prejudging what might stimulate interest.



Evaluation

It would be ideal to have some more in depth evaluation of the resource sheets, e.g. via a question on the feedback sheets.

However, in order to avoid over-questioning attendees, the team has thus far focused on assessing the impact of the rounds themselves. In future, perhaps more direct evaluation of the resource sheets can be achieved.

Feedback / Impact

- Many of the sheets have been taken away from each round, which we have interpreted as offering staff additional support and information, as and when required, should a topic have touched them more directly.
- Any copies left over from the round are re-utilised – a team member now supplies copies to the Junior Doctors mess and a number of additional copies are left in a corridor display for Schwartz Rounds, so that anyone passing can take a copy should they wish to. Leaving copies in highly accessible places not only adds to the promotional aspect of this work, highlighting upcoming Schwartz Rounds, but also demonstrates the types of topics discussed and that further information and knowledge can easily be sought.
- Verbal feedback – *“Very useful sheet” “Very informative” “Some theory behind the practical - Something you can take away with you and share”. “Struck a chord with me, came back and looked something up afterwards”.*
- Derby’s Schwartz Rounds were recently visited by a team from another Trust, currently looking at implementing Schwartz Rounds in their organisation. Members of this team indicated that they thought the resource sheet was a beneficial option to have on offer.