



Elizabeth Blackwell Institute Research for Health Scheme 2015

Stage 1 - Call for Challenges Application Form

Name	Kate Rush
Challenge Title (max 20 Words)	
Why do a significant but small number of injecting drug users in Bristol develop MRSA sepsis and what can we do to reduce this?	

Please describe the specific problem which needs addressing
My question is based on the fact that Bristol has a high number if injecting drug users. Only a small number of these, but a significant number, develop MRSA sepsis. My question is therefore: Why do a significant but small number of injecting drug users in Bristol develop MRSA sepsis and what can we do to reduce this? BDP, public health and myself would be interested to explore this further.
How does this issue impact on you, your colleagues and your patients?
<p>A review took place in 2014 of the patients diagnosed with MRSA blood stream infections from blood samples taken within 48 hours of attending hospital. These are generally considered not to be hospital acquired.</p> <p>All cases that occurred between April 2013 and August 2014 were reviewed 9 of the 21 patients identified (40%) were intravenous drug users.</p> <p>A rapid evidence review was presented as an appendix to the review. This was undertaken to address the questions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Are there any effective interventions for reducing MRSA in intravenous drug users?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Are there particular injection sites which pose greater risk of infection?</p> <p>This found that despite a substantial literature base stating that intravenous drug users have an elevated risk for carriage of Staphylococcus aureus including MRSA, no literature could be found offering evidenced based guidance or recommendations for reducing MRSA specifically in this population.</p> <p>There have continued to be further cases reported since the review.</p> <p>A task and finish group has been formed to attempt to reduce the incidence of MRSA blood stream infections in this population. This includes members from Public Health England, Bristol Drugs Project, Acute providers, Primary Care, Public Health and the CCG.</p>

The funds available and the partnership with the researchers could help develop a solution to this challenging public health problem with a supporting evidence base.

Can you estimate how many patients or staff are affected by this problem?
Can you describe any associated financial implications for the NHS or patients?
(Don't worry if you are not able to answer this question at this stage – it is not compulsory)