Setting up a successful nurse-led intravitreal injections service: pearls from Swindon

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The demand for performing intravitreal injections has increased in recent years, prompting the need for more nurse training in their administration. The Great Western Hospitals NHS Trust in Swindon has developed a structured nurse training programme and now has 8 independent nurse injectors trained to undertake injections independently; nurse practitioners now contribute upwards of 85% of the total number of injections. The authors have also demonstrated the financial benefits of using injection assistant devices and shown the positive impact such devices have on training. In September 2019, the authors organised the first course to offer nurses and doctors hands-on experience in administering injections, using the Swindon training model to provide participants with a structured approach to learn how to perform intravitreal injections safely. Nurses made up 96% of participants; the remainder were doctors and managers; 6% had never performed an intravitreal injection; of units where they had, disposable drapes and a speculum were used in 71% of these. The number of injections performed per session at participants' units at the time they attended the course was: 17 or more injections=46%, 13–14=39%, and 11–12=15%. The course was rated 8.9/10 overall for content, with 85% very likely to recommend it to colleagues. All participants indicated that using the Swindon model made them feel confident to deliver injections safely. The authors demonstrated that using a structured training protocol and intravitreal assistant device improves the quality of nurse training and increases confidence in administering intravitreal injections.

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