Using digital clinical communication to support young adults with long-term conditions: lessons from the LYNC study

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Digital technology for communication between clinicians and young patients with chronic conditions (LYNCS study) – An international review

Presenter: Mike May, Warwick Medical School

Scoping review aim:
map the evidence for use of digital clinical communication between young people with long term health conditions and clinicians in countries with, or moving towards, Universal Health Coverage

Complement to five other scoping reviews (English language papers only) in the following domains:
Mental Health; Diabetes; other long term physical conditions; use by Parents/Carers of Children with long term conditions; use of VoIP (e.g. Skype)

Digital clinical communication is:
- Between patient and a clinician (e.g. nurse, doctor, therapist)
- Asynchronous or synchronous
- Any digital medium (text, email, mobile, social media)
- Content is clinical (not administrative)

Universal health coverage ‘means that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.’ (3)

Scoping reviews: aim to map rapidly the key concepts underpinning a research area and the main sources and types of evidence available, and can be undertaken as standalone projects in their own right, especially where an area is complex or has not been reviewed comprehensively before’ (4:194; emphasis in original).

Headlines from five scoping reviews:
- Most studies are relatively small
- Benefits for health outcome are found with some but not all health conditions
- Most studies found improved clinician/patient communication
- Concerns include risk to confidentiality

Searches aimed for non-English peer review publications
Types of study: All types published from May 2009
Participants: Adolescents and young adults (study mean age 12–25 years) with long term condition (physical health or mental health)
Exclusions: health promotion (e.g. for obesity; specific therapy delivery e.g. CBT)

Countries such as Brazil are opting to use open source software for digital health systems (2)
Six scoping reviews planned as part of study of digital clinical communication with young people living with long term conditions

No studies were found that were not included in the other scoping reviews


Funding Acknowledgement: This project was funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme (Project Number 12/209/51)