

Category :**ICU organization**

A149 - Setting up an echocardiography teaching and governance meeting within critical care in a district general hospital

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Introduction:

We looked at the feasibility of introducing an echo governance meeting in a district general hospital. Focussed echocardiography is an important component in the diagnosis and management of the critical care patient. It must be performed by appropriately trained individuals and be subject to data governance and audit/quality improvement [1].

Methods:

In May 2023 a monthly meeting was established for echo teaching and governance. The meeting was broadcast in person and virtually. Each session had a FICE/FUSIC accredited junior to act as chair and at least one BSE level 2 accredited critical care clinician. Sessions were advertised to multiple departments trust-wide. Sessions included the review of focussed echos and more recently, a five-question review related to data governance. At the beginning and end of each session a questionnaire was distributed.

Results:

From 7 meetings, 47 responses were generated from in-person attendees. Just over half of attendees had a critical care background and the remainder were from anaesthetics, general medicine, respiratory medicine and emergency medicine. Attendees included consultants, trainees and wider members of the MDT. 42 post-meeting questionnaires returned extremely positive data: 100% of attendees reported the meeting interesting and found they learnt something; 98% found the meeting educational and useful; 66% said the meeting altered their practice; and 74% reported the meeting encouraged them to consider echo governance such as storing images and writing reports (see figure 1).

Conclusion:

This shows it is not only possible, but beneficial, to introduce echo governance in a district general hospital. Future work includes the introduction of a 24/7 echo helpline for immediate review of scans, and increasing the frequency of these meetings to weekly, embedding this as a key part of practice.

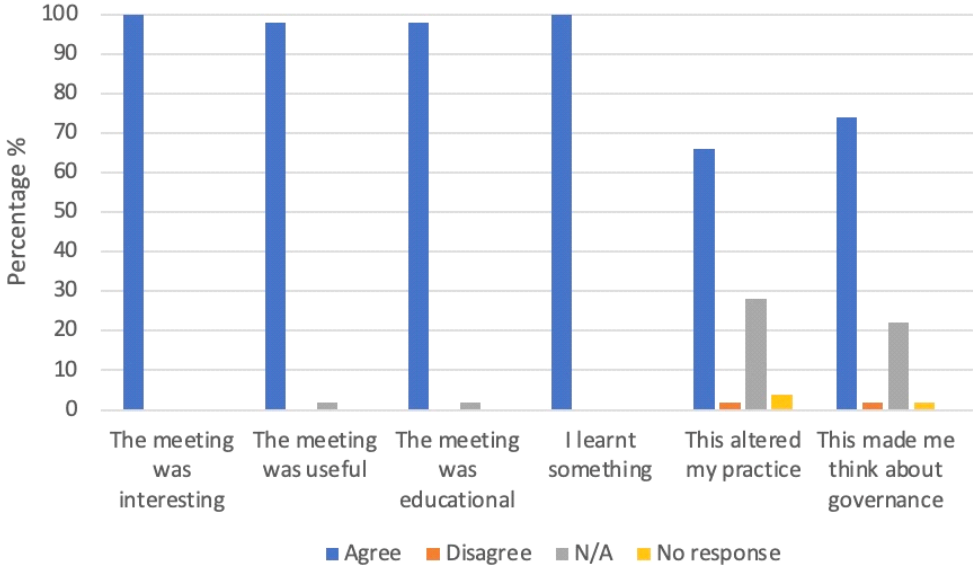
References:

1 - Guidelines for the provision of intensive care services, v2.1

[https://www.ficm.ac.uk/sites/ficm/files/documents/2022-07/GPICS V2.1 \(2\).pdf](https://www.ficm.ac.uk/sites/ficm/files/documents/2022-07/GPICS V2.1 (2).pdf)

Image :

Feedback from echo governance meetings



A bar chart to show the feedback obtained from echo governance meetings