Dear Researchers,
Welcome to our seventh ARK newsletter. We hope you will find this informative and will share our excitement about progress of the project.

Into the home straight!
The last ARK study site implemented in August which means we are now into the sustainability phase at all forty sites across the study. This is a crucial stage for the project. Evaluations of antibiotic stewardship interventions often lack evidence about whether they are sustainable and don’t give information about how to sustain improvements. We need to ensure we do all we can to sustain the improvements in prescribing sites have achieved and learn how the best sites have done it. So on the monthly teleconferences we are trying to focus on sustainability issues. Please try and make sure at least someone from each site joins the monthly teleconference calls to contribute about the problems encountered at their site, share solutions and to learn from others.

European Antibiotic Awareness day is coming November 18th. This can be a great opportunity to point staff to the online learning – it is something you can just take off the shelf for EAAD staff engagement.

This month we have presented the ARK implementation development work and feasibility study findings at three national meetings. The Health Education England, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infections Conference at the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA) Infection Network meeting and at the Royal College of Physicians East of England training day. A really strong message which came out from the UKCPA meeting was that primary care has achieved reduced antibiotic use because the quality premium was supported by a toolkit (TARGET). Secondary care didn’t achieve the CQUIN goals because tools weren’t available. The screenshot below shows how the audience clearly recognised that ARK provides those tools.

Responses from 77 attendees at the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association Infection Network meeting Oct 2019.

Monthly teleconferences
We still have two monthly TCs – third or fourth Monday and Tuesday depending on things like half-term at 1pm. If you are not getting the invites or want to add colleagues to the email list please contact Anna on anna.zalevski@ndm.ox.ac.uk

On learning and ARK resources
The ARK online learning and resources continue to be available as during your implementation phase until the end of the project but many of you will be aware already of the Health Education England funded new versions of these tools which are now available. The new Online learning is on e-learning for health here: https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/ and on the BSAC Virtual Learning Environment here: http://bsac-vle.com/ark-the-antibiotic-review-kit/

Most importantly your hospital IT department can now download the SCORM compliant version of the online learning tool from the same BSAC Virtual Learning Environment page so that it can be embedded in your hospital’s learning platform. Seven sites have done this already. It means you can use this in induction or training meetings for new staff and you Trust can log who has done the online training. I got 14 of our CMTs to do it on their phones in a training session this week. It generated very educational discussion around clinical cases for the rest of the session and great feedback scores for me.

Data
In preparation for the next Data Monitoring Committee meeting we will be having another big push to get electronic data from sites over the next couple of months. One thing we have had problems with is C. difficile testing data. Some sites have misunderstood what information we require. We may need to come back to Champions to help us find the right people in microbiology and informatics at each trust as we try and iron out these issues.

With best wishes from all of the ARK study team and many thanks for your hard work on the project

Martin
ARK outputs

As many of you know we have had some key papers published from the project over the summer. These include a paper describing how the ARK intervention was developed, the findings of the feasibility study in Brighton and the Trial protocol paper.


We have a paper describing the patient leaflet work under review and over the next couple of months expect to submit the findings of the Discrete Choice Experiment investigating prescriber decision making around antibiotic review and revise.

Audit Data

Please ensure your team have sent in a copy of the complete audit data. (12 weeks).

Several sites have asked if we want to keep getting audit data submitted during the sustainability phase and the answer is YES!

Process Questionnaires

We are asking the PIs to complete the following:
- process questionnaire
- implementation checklist
- barriers and solutions template

We are collecting this information to learn more about how different hospitals are implementing ARK and will use this information to further refine our implementation guidance.

If Magda has already been in touch with you, please send any outstanding forms as soon as possible to magda.laskawiec@ouh.nhs.uk.

If you haven’t had a request from Magda yet, she will be in touch shortly.

You can find information about the study at:

http://www.arkstudy.ox.ac.uk/

Check our website for the latest news about the ARK project

Follow us on @ARK_hospital  Ark email address: orh-tr.ark-hospital@nhs.net

ARK online training update — 21Oct2019 — see next pages

Online training target (70%)
Feasibility site — implementation phase completed
Pilot sites — implementation phase completed
Main trial sites — sites randomised not implemented yet
Main trial sites — implementation phase ongoing
Main trial sites — implementation phase completed
Data correct as of 21Oct2019
Completion of ARK online learning by Key Members of the wider clinical team

Data correct as of 21Oct2019