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Chipperfield, Sarah and Burton, A. Kim

The Whiplash Trial

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INTRODUCTION
50% of whiplash patients have not recovered at 3 months post injury. Many remain symptomatic for 12 months or more. This incurs ongoing healthcare consumption and cost.

HYPOTHESIS
It is hypothesised that a higher proportion of participants who receive the experimental booklet will show a positive shift in beliefs and consider themselves recovered by 3 months.

METHOD
254 subjects to be recruited
Present at A&E with a suspected neck injury from a RTA will be given an information sheet
Assessed by the Dr, given a booklet pack if they are suitable (Quebec grades 0-3)
Pack contains:
Baseline information, VAS
Whiplash beliefs questionnaire, Consent form
Standard information card or the WB
Follow-up booklet sent 2 weeks post A&E visit (WBQ, WDQ)
Follow-up call/ text/ letter and third booklet sent at 3 months post injury
Booklet 3: Self management status, WBQ, WDQ

THE WHIPLASH BOOK
A more comprehensive alternative
Evidence-based
Shifts beliefs
Aims to change the whiplash culture
Can it reduce long-term problems?

PRACTICAL CHALLENGES FOR RESEARCH
A & E environment busy
Training of staff nurses and doctors
Logistics
Contact person- shift work
Communication
Nature of whiplash- ‘compensation culture’?

PROBLEM SOLVING
Local champions appointed within A&E departments (nursing and medical staff)
Voucher scheme- £10 voucher sent to participants on completion of all three booklets introduced to try and improve numbers.

CURRENT RECRUITMENT LEVELS
Booklet 1 88
Booklet 2 47
Booklet 3 29

Improvement in returns since £10 voucher introduced.