SFHGTC8
Communicate genetic and genomic information to individuals, families and other healthcare staff

Overview

This standard is about communicating genetic information to individuals and families with, or at risk of, a genetic condition and communicating appropriate genetic information to other healthcare staff in the patient pathway. There exists a variety of beliefs and understanding around genetic concepts. Some languages may not have specific words for genetic terms. It is important that your communication skills take account of background, language and level of understanding. This is a standard which may be generally applicable to healthcare staff in a wide variety of roles. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 ensure sufficient time and an appropriate environment are available for the consultation

P2 identify the specific needs of the individual including preferred language, method of communication and any translation services needed

P3 ensure relevant resources are available if required

P4 assess the individual's current level of understanding of the genetic condition and their beliefs, concerns and expectations regarding the implications for themselves and their family

P5 communicate information about a genetic condition in an comprehensible, accessible, sensitive and non-directive manner, being aware of the impact genetic information may have on an individual / family

P6 ensure any genetic or genomic information you give to the individual is within the limits of your role, responsibility, knowledge and experience

P7 encourage the individual to ask questions throughout the consultation

P8 provide sources of information and support to individuals and others following the identification of genetic or genomic conditions

P9 discuss any ethical, legal and psychosocial implications of a genetic diagnosis

P10 respect the confidentiality of individuals and their families

P11 communicate appropriate genetic and genomic information to other healthcare staff in the patient pathway as required and ensure accurate and appropriate records are maintained

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the symptoms, clinical signs and modes of inheritance of genetic conditions relevant to your area of practice

K2 how the management of disease can be influenced by information from the genome

K3 the ethical, legal and social implications of genetic or genomic information for individuals and families

K4 the psychosocial and cultural implications of genetic or genomic information for individuals and families

K5 consent and confidentiality guidelines

K6 the beliefs, concerns and expectations of individuals and their families associated with their genetic or genomic status

K7 the role of specialist genetics services

K8 where to obtain information and support for individuals affected by, or at risk of, a genetic condition

K9 how to assess an individual's level of understanding, prior knowledge and misconceptions

K10 how to present information in ways appropriate for different individuals

K11 effective communicative skills and strategies consistent with levels of understanding, background, culture and preferred ways of communicating, including working with interpreters

K12 how genetic or genomic information may impact on an individual and their immediate and extended family

K13 the reasons why genetic consultations should be non-directive in supporting the individual to make informed choices

Additional information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet people's health and wellbeing needs

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