



Filling in the Knowledge Gap : Designing the General Surgery/ Orthopaedic Clinical Handbook for NHS Dumfries & Galloway



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INTRODUCTION

The NHS Dumfries & Galloway Electronic Clinical Handbook was developed as an aide memoire for junior doctors working in the medical unit at Dumfries Infirmary. It started as a paper-based notebook in the 1990s and provided a starting point for the immediate management of many common medical conditions. It went electronic in the 2000s before becoming an app in 2015. The Dumfries Clinical Handbook can be accessed from the main page of the hospital intranet and is also available externally at www.nhsdghandbook.co.uk. Until now the content has been purely medical.

AIM

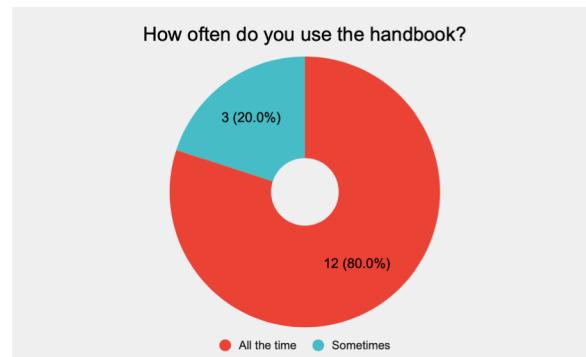
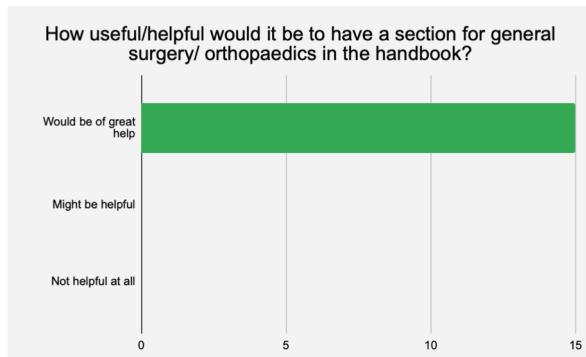
To expand the NHS Dumfries & Galloway Electronic Clinical Handbook to include topics in General Surgery and Orthopaedics that would be useful for junior doctors.

METHODS

- ✓ A survey was sent to the current FY1 and FY2 doctors asking for their input as to topics that would be helpful to be included.
- ✓ Common general surgical and orthopaedic presentations were identified and the handbook was written to include presentation, investigations and managements.
- ✓ Information in the handbook was vetted by a general surgical registrar, consultant general surgeon and consultant orthopaedic surgeon.
- ✓ Funding for these two sections to be published online were then discussed and approved.

RESULTS

1. Initial survey of 15 junior doctors



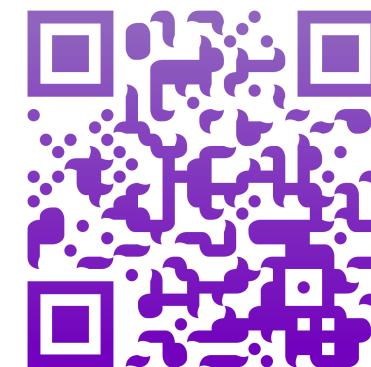
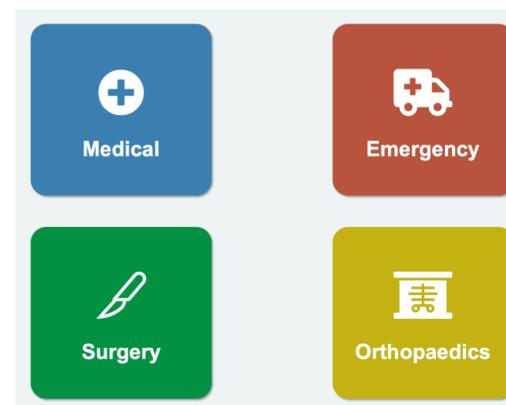
2. Responses to question 'what would be useful in the general surgical handbook?'

- Management of common surgical emergencies/ presentations
- Analgesia and laxatives in surgery
- Clerk-in of patients including investigations required
- Anticoagulation in surgery
- Bowel preparations for procedures

3. Responses to question 'what would be useful in the general orthopaedic handbook?'

- Anticoagulation in orthopaedics
- Check X-rays post-surgery
- Analgesia and laxatives

General Surgery/ Orthopaedic Clinical Handbook



Point camera at QR code to access the handbook

DISCUSSION

For a long time, the Oxford Clinical Handbook was the junior doctor's handbook of choice, though at around 900 pages this is now more like a textbook than a handbook. The aim of the Dumfries Handbook is to provide readily accessible and highly practical guidance when assessing and managing a wide variety of medical, and now both surgical and orthopaedic, conditions. We summarise the relevant NICE and SIGN guidelines and link to other relevant handbooks eg the GGC Therapeutic Handbook.

GOING FORWARD

A survey will be sent out after 1 month of the Surgical and Orthopaedic sections of the handbook being published online to the FY1 and FY2s for feedback and number of online visitors to the site will be collected and reviewed. There is huge scope for expansion for this project which we hope will be an ongoing process.