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| Host department:Nottingham |
| Project Title: |
| Supporting the treatment of skin disease in skin of colour – issues and solutions for primary care. |
| Proposed supervisory team: |
| + Dr Paul Leighton, Associate Professor of Applied Health Research, Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, University of Nottingham.  + Prof Nadeem Qureshi, Professor of Primary Care, Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Nottingham.  + Dr Hannah Wainman, Department of Dermatology, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust with dual affiliation with the University of Bristol. |
| Potential for cross consortium networking and educational opportunities: |
| This work has potential relevance for other elements of the NSPCR that are interested in the management of skin conditions. Hannah’s colleagues in Bristol (Prof Matt Ridd) and colleagues in Southampton (Prof Miriam Santer & Dr Ingrid Muller) may be interested in this work and the candidate would be encouraged to network with them and their broader teams.  Other avenues for collaboration include SAPC Dermatology Research SIG and the British Association of Dermatology Skin of Colour Group. |
| Project description: |
| Background:  Skin disease is the commonest reason why an individual presents to their GP with a new condition. There are approximately 13 million GP consultations for skin conditions each year.  Skin disease in skin of colour (SOC) may pose particular difficulties for primary care: (i) dermatological signs and symptoms may differ, or be less readily identified, in people with SOC; (ii) some skin conditions disproportionately affect people with SOC; (iii) culturally defined skin and hair practices may impact upon skin disease; and, (iv) skin conditions may be more stigmatising especially If it involves changes to skin pigmentation.  Aims and Objectives:  To produce resources that support primary care in identifying and managing skin conditions in SOC.  - to review existing evidence about the challenges of identifying/managing skin disease in SOC in primary care.  - to explore healthcare professional experiences of the challenges associated with skin disease in SOC.  - to develop targeted resources that support the identification or management of skin disease on SOC.  - to pilot these resources in a limited number of practices.  Project Plan:   1. Scoping review of existing materials.   This review will seek prior, published literature focused upon the challenges of identifying and managing skin disease in SOC. It will seek evidence which presents the views and experiences of healthcare professionals and others, and it will focus specifically upon primary care settings.   1. Exploration with healthcare professional about challenges experienced.   The views of primary care health professionals (GPs, nurses, pharmacists, etc.) will be explored in a series of interviews focused upon their experience of identifying and managing skin disease in SOC. This will include a concern for challenges recognised and strategies which have been found helpful.   1. Development of resources in one area.   Findings from 1 & 2 will be synthesised to identify an area where resources might be beneficial – this could be a specific skin condition and/or a particular aspect of healthcare (diagnosis, treatment). An expert group will be formed, including primary and secondary care doctors as well as individuals who have experienced skin disease. This group will guide the generation of practice focused resources.   1. Piloting of materials.   These resources will be piloted and evaluated in a small number of primary care practices; practices will be selected to reflect an ethnically diverse local population. Evaluation will consider the acceptability of the resources, ease of use, and impact upon clinical practice. Both healthcare professionals and individuals treated using the resources will be consulted in this.  Impact:  Resources which support the identification and treatment of skin disease in SOC in primary care can play a role in addressing health inequalities – for example, individuals from ethnic minority groups are currently less likely to receive stronger steroids despite higher rates of eczema in black children.  Stages 1 & 2 of this work will demonstrate the potential for further areas where resources can be beneficial, i.e. many areas for work may be identified, but only one completed in this studentship. This work may lay the foundations for further research and further resources. |
| Indicative project costs: |
| In addition to fees and stipend.  An annual budget of £5,000/year for professional development – e.g external course, conferences and other travel.  The purchase of a laptop and digital recorder is required to undertake the research = £1,500.  Research costs will include: thank-you vouchers for interview participants (30x£75=£2,250); transcriptions costs (30x60minx£1.40per min=£2,520). Resource development and production (£10,000). Evaluation budget (£5,000). |
| Training and development provision by host: |
| *Formal training:*  A programme of formal training is available to Postgraduate research students at the University of Nottingham**.** Training will focus on research skills and career development and will be tailored to the individual’s needs.  Additionally, students will be able to access a local Research Skills Programme. |
| *Informal training:*  The supervisory team will act as a support network providing mentoring on all aspects of the research. There will also be the opportunity to be involved in School of Medicine peer support groups. |
| *PPIE*:  The Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (CEBD) holds an annual patient panel training workshop to provide networking opportunities, and shared learning for patients involved in dermatological research. The CEBD strives to meet the National Standards for Public Involvement developed by the NIHR and have recently reviewed procedures in the light of updated guidance |