Commissioning and research: improving value in healthcare

Alison Turner, Midlands & Lancashire CSU
Siân Jones, West of England Academic Health Science Network

Manifesto for evidence informed health and care commissioning

Ten principles at the heart of improving value in healthcare

1. Evidence is present at the heart of commissioning to shape and direct decision-making
2. Evidence is accessed in a timely way at key points in decision-making
3. Research evidence is integrated with other sources eg data, expertise, policy, feedback and organisational learning
4. Evaluation of decision making measures outcomes and informs future investment decisions
5. Commissioning staff have the awareness and skills to access and utilise evidence or the support available
6. Co-production between users and producers of evidence support evidence-informed commissioning and commissioning-informed evidence
7. Evidence is recognised as part of decision making alongside other factors, eg local context, community and political priorities and resources
8. It is considered unethical to adopt an intervention where evidence has not been considered
9. Commissioning is multi-disciplinary and should be usefully informed by evidence from a range of disciplines
10. Intermediaries facilitate innovative approaches to translate evidence into actionable insights, balancing rigour and timeliness

THE SETTING
NHS commissioning is responsible for spending 2/3 of the NHS budget – around £72bn in 2016-17. Commissioning of health and care services is highly complex and subject to influences from political, economic and social contexts AND currently, facing the most challenging financial period in the life of the NHS. There is no room for waste: emphasis is on value based healthcare.

The need to strengthen and support the use of evidence has never been so urgent!

THE ISSUE
At this critical time, evidence can play an important role but studies show commissioners’ use of evidence is variable and inconsistent. Research evidence for commissioning decisions often doesn’t exist, or is difficult to interpret and apply.

CALL TO ACTION
This 10 point manifesto represents a call to action across local and national levels to address barriers and challenges to commissioners’ use of evidence.

Help us to:
- Plan how to take this manifesto forward
- Consider its relevance to other disciplines
- Identify actions to ensure research has a role in value based health care

@EvidentlySian sian.jones@weahsn.net @ali_pals alison.turner14@nhs.net