

Implementation and survey of the first Liver Support Clinic in Ireland

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BACKGROUND

The burden of liver disease in Ireland is stark .From HIPE data compiled in 2018, it demonstrates a national readmission rate of 20.9% for those with cirrhosis and a mortality rate of 9%
To compare this to Beaumont Hospital, the readmission rate for those with cirrhosis is 20.8% and mortality rate of 12.5% .

AIMS

To determine the impact of the Liver Passport and Liver Support Clinic on our Patients' health and wellbeing.

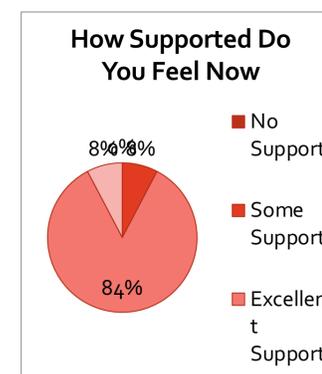
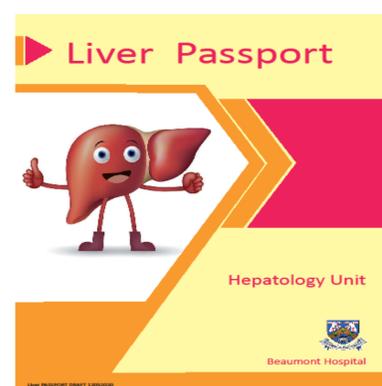
METHODS

A patient satisfaction survey was compiled and sent to patients who received a Liver Passport and attended the Liver Support Clinic. The survey was a multiple choice questionnaire that invited the participants to comment on all sections.

RESULTS

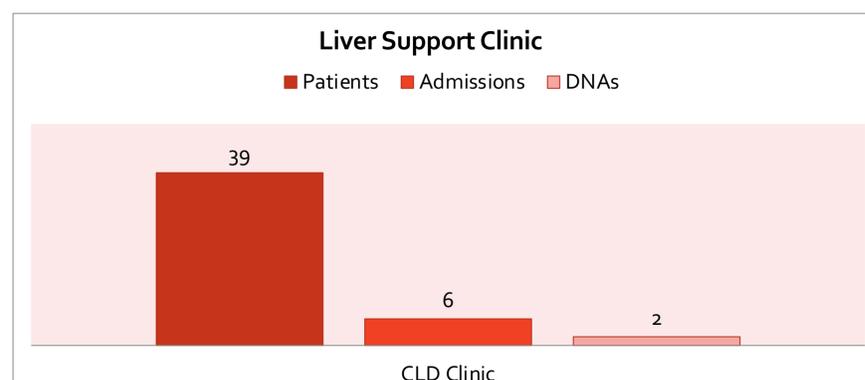
- Dietician and Physiotherapy involvement was considered the highest priority as an addition to the Liver Support Clinic (69.2%)
- Pharmacist and palliative care input was second highest priority. (61.5%)
- Mental health provision in the clinic was of least importance (50%) however, this could be explained by the Hepatology Unit already having access to a dedicated counsellor for its patients.
- 84.6% of patients found the Liver support clinic to be extremely useful.
- 77% of patients use their Liver Passport.
- 84.6% find it very easy to use.
- There was an increase of 47% in the level of knowledge and understanding that patients have of their disease before and after the addition of the Liver Passport, with now 62% feeling they know a lot more.
- The level of support and information patients felt they received increased by 54%, with 85% now feeling they have excellent support in comparison to 31% before the liver passport.

RESULTS



Participants Comments:

- Very professional. Very helpful. Liver passport is very well put together covering all aspects relating to the liver
- I think the passports explains everything in easy to understand language
- Peace of mind knowing where to contact immediately if any problems occur
- All the help with the passport the team has given me the feeling of not being isolated and always have a support.
- A great educational tool, helpful to have weight and medication details in one place. Also very handy to have if became unwell when travelling.



This is a Consultant-led clinic, which for a 3 month period saw an admission rate of 15.38% and DNA rate of 5% (3 month graph attached). The Hepatology Nurse Specialist was available at the clinic to provide support and education material (liver passport).

CONCLUSIONS

From the Audit it was clear to see that the Liver Support Clinic and the Liver Passport have had a positive impact on patients, their carers' and family.