A review of Epilepsy Specialist Nurse’s clinical activity and impact on paediatric admissions
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Aims
To quantify and characterise clinical activity for the Epilepsy Specialist Nurse (ESN) at Kings Mill Hospital.
To assess whether the introduction of an Epilepsy Specialist Nurse was associated with a change in rates of paediatric admissions for children with known epilepsies.

Methods
Prospective diary records, prospective documentation of telephone calls during a sample time period and analysis of epilepsy related admission rates were undertaken.

Diary review
Method
The Epilepsy Specialist Nurse’s diary has documented patient contact since commencement of post April 2007. Activity was analysed over 24 months between April 2007 - April 2009.

Results
Fig.1. Bar chart showing number of ‘nurse-patient episodes’ for each type of activity.

Telephone review
Method
All nurse-patient telephone conversations over a 5 week period in 2008 were prospectively analysed, documenting reason for the call, duration and outcome

Results
Fig.2. Proportions of ‘reasons for calls’
Fig.3. Numbers of different outcomes of telephone conversation

Epilepsy related admissions
Method
Admission rates for children with epilepsy were analysed. From April 2004 to March 2009 all children <16 years whose acute admission was coded as epilepsy were counted. Changes in rates of admission were analysed using the statistical method of process control charts.

Results
Mean number of admissions prior to April 2007 (Commencement of epilepsy specialist nurse post) was 4. Mean number of admissions after April 2007 = 2. This difference reached statistical significance using a process control chart technique where 7 consecutive observations below the previous mean suggest a significant change in mean (p=.05)

Conclusions
1. The diary review shows the diversity of ENS activities. Many activities fall outside those activities which are routinely recorded by NHS trusts.
2. The activity of the Epilepsy Specialist Nurse appeared to increase in all domains in the second year except in ward reviews where it appeared paradoxically to decrease.
3. There were a wide range of ‘reasons for telephone calls’ which demonstrates the varied concerns of the client group. The majority of phone calls were unplanned and resulted in actions.
4. The commencement of the Epilepsy Specialist Nurse was associated with a significant reduction in epilepsy related admission rates.