IMPROVING THE ORDERING OF LIVER INVESTIGATIONS IN ACUTE LIVER INJURY IN CRITICAL CARE: A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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A quality improvement project in a UK intensive care unit demonstrated that a simple poster guide with education improved resident doctors' confidence and knowledge when ordering liver investigations for acute liver injury.

KEY POINTS

- Baseline assessment of 13 resident doctors showed only 15% reported high confidence in ordering liver investigations, with 92% reporting difficulties including reliance on inaccessible guidelines and omission of tests.
- A concise poster developed with the Hepatology team provided structured guidance on blood tests, aetiological screening, and imaging for liver investigations, displayed in clinical areas and supported by targeted teaching.
- After five weeks, confidence improved markedly with 92% of 13 respondents reporting very or extremely high confidence and 100% reporting improved ease when requesting comprehensive liver screens.
- Knowledge improved across multiple domains: correct identification of synthetic liver function tests rose from 79% to 92%, and accuracy in ordering autoimmune screens increased from 31% to 69%.
- All respondents found the poster useful, 77% reported active clinical use, and all supported developing electronic order sets to further streamline the process.

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