How successful have Schwartz Round pilots been in the UK?

Schwartz Rounds were first trialled in the UK in two trusts between October 2009 and October 2010 at The Royal Free Hospital and Cheltenham General Hospital. Having seen the positive effects of Rounds in the US, it raised the question of whether that success was transferable to the NHS and whether the same results seen in evaluations in the US would be seen in UK pilots. In order to determine the success of the Rounds, the researchers used a similar structure to the evaluations used in the USA, this involved using pre/post round surveys, on-the-day feedback and a some qualitative research in the form of semi-structured interviews. The data obtained from the on-the-day feedback was very positive, with respondents showing overall approval of the rounds (58% of respondents at Cheltenham Hospital and 57% at Royal Free Hospital rated the rounds as ‘excellent’). There was also a large number of respondents who indicated that they were interested in attending future Rounds.

Some of the most encouraging and valuable feedback was obtained during the qualitative interviews. Two rounds of interviews were conducted, one after 2-3 rounds had taken place at the trusts and one after the trusts had been hosting rounds for 12 months. These interviews addressed a lot of important themes, including: the relationships between staff of different specialities, the realisation of shared responsibility and values and promotion of effective teamwork. Some quotes from these interviews are as follows:

**It is very grounding. It is humbling. You think – Christ, this is what they do! It reminds you of the profound ethical decisions people take.** *(Participant, site 2, phase 2)*

**It generates pride in our identity. We need to re-emphasize that we are here to care for patients, so we need to look after staff.** *(Panellist, site 2, phase 2)*

**Generally we are quite siloed and some teams work more collaboratively than others. People do need to acknowledge the impact of their work on each other. Schwartz is likely to affect how they work together.** *(Participant, site 2, phase 2)*

These statements underpin not only the values at the heart of Schwartz Rounds, but also the positive effects that engaging in the rounds can have on staff members. Due to the profoundly enthusiastic answers given in interviews, coupled with very positive data from quantitative research that we have chosen to trial Schwartz Rounds in our University, hoping that it will have as positive an impact on the education of future healthcare professionals as it has had on current staff in at sites in the US and in the UK pilots.

---


Lee Mason yr 3 MBChB Uni of Liverpool