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**Exploring community nurses views on the implementation of a local weight management pathway****Sophie Hinks**

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Overweight and obesity is a major cause of non-communicable diseases globally, nationally and locally. It also has a significant cost to both the individual and society.

Weight management pathways (WMP) are a recognized tool used to reduce levels of overweight and obesity and are recommended by both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Yet locally there is no WMP in place. A WMP, to best meet the local population's needs, along with a guidance document was designed based on current WMP's in the UK. This was then shown to participants of the focus group.

This research focuses on community nursing staff's views on the implementation of a local WMP through the use of interpretative phenomenology. A focus group was conducted which sought the views of adult community nursing staff on current weight management procedures and their views on the implementation of a WMP. The data was then thematically analyzed with the use of the Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF).

The findings acknowledge the lack of a current WMP as well as the limitations of the Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST) assessment, which is what is currently utilized in practice, as it does not trigger interventions for overweight or obesity. The need for and benefits of a local WMP were recognized by participants, however the need for training in the use of the tool was also recognized.

Potential barriers to its implementation were deemed to be the sensitive subject, a lack of staff knowledge and patients' willingness to change. The recognition of these barriers reflected background literature and could aid in the implementation of a WMP by ensuring that they have been considered and potentially prevented. Further barriers including cost and communications systems were discovered that weren't recognized in previous research.

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