Summary of the e-seminar

Presentations:
The e-seminar was introduced by Beverley Matthews, Director of NHS Kidney Care. Beverley introduced the main speaker, Dr Steven Laitner, a GP and Lead for Shared Decision Making at the Right Care Programme. The presentation provided an overview of the benefits of Shared Decision Making (SDM) and how it can be implemented successfully, using case studies, graphs and data to illustrate the development of this service. Key points included were:

- The patient perspective and how SDM can enhance patient experience
- Percentages of patients who would like more involvement in treatment decisions, and how this involvement can benefit them
- How the prevalence of SDM varies across the UK
- A definition of what SDM is
- Why it is beneficial for clinicians and patients to share
- How SDM can be implemented within the NHS and how it fits with government policy
- Clinician perspective on patient engagement
- Decision aids and how they are used

Discussion
The presentation was followed by a detailed discussion, with Dr Rob Elias of King’s College Hospital joining Dr Laitner. The discussion covered a number of topics, including:

- Thoughts around patient peer support, as a partner to SDM
- Who would take responsibility for the development of decision aids?
- Evidenced methods of establishing whether patients have been given the opportunity to 'take part' in the SDM process
- The difference between what clinicians and patients perceive as shared decision making and the fact that a significant proportion of clinicians feel they believe their patients are already sufficiently involved in making decisions
- The next course of action and what those listening should do

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