A paper on the effect of the SAGE & THYME foundation level workshop on factors influencing communication skills, following a collaborative research project between the University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust and the Maguire Communication Skills Unit, was published in March 2014 by the Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions. The study was carried out on 173 healthcare professionals and found that the workshop significantly increased communication skills knowledge, self-efficacy (perceived mastery over skills), and outcome expectancy (anticipated positive outcomes from the behaviour) of hospital health care workers. This suggests that the workshop may have a positive impact on some factors influencing communication skills in this group.

A link to the abstract is on our website under 'evidence and links' and we can provide more information on the data upon request.

New one day workshop - ‘Reflect and Refresh for Facilitators’

In response to requests from a number of people to provide a 'refresher' course, we are pleased to announce that we have developed a new one day workshop, ‘Reflect and Refresh for Facilitators’.

This has been designed for people who have not run a SAGE & THYME foundation level for a while (perhaps due to maternity, or moving organisations); for those who are lacking confidence; or for people who just need a little more support to help them be effective facilitators.

The workshop will run from 9am until 4:30pm with two trainers and will initially be held in Manchester.

The cost will be £199 per delegate and the first workshop will be held towards the end of the year. To register your interest or to book a place please contact us: sageandthyme@uhsm.nhs.uk

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**Registration and coffee**

08.45 - 09.00 Registration and coffee
09.00 - 10.10 Introduction to the day
10.10 - 10.50 Group Exercise - Group Work 1
10.50 - 11.10 COFFEE
11.10 - 11.30 PowerPoint slides in SAGE & THYME
11.30 - 11.50 Group Exercise - Group Work 2
11.50 - 12.25 Group exercise - Rehearsal Scenarios
12.25 - 13.15 LUNCH
13.15 - 13.30 Reflections from the morning sessions
13.30 - 14.15 Demonstration rehearsal
14.15 - 14.35 COFFEE
14.35 - 15.45 Group exercise - Group Dynamics
15.45 - 16.10 Unfinished business
16.10 - 16.30 Learning outcomes, certificates and evaluations

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Next SAGE & THYME ACP workshop

The SAGE & THYME for advance care planning (ACP) and end of life care 3.5 hour workshop teaches participants how to focus on effective communication skills that help to open an ACP conversation. The structure provides a consultation guide as concerns and issues are disclosed.

The workshop is suitable for senior staff who engage in advance care planning/end of life conversations (e.g. GPs, healthcare staff, social workers, lawyers) who have experience of advance care planning/ end of life care/ Gold Standards framework.

The last SAGE & THYME workshop held on Friday 23 May 2014 in Manchester was over-subscribed. The full details of the workshop are on our web site: http://www.sageandthymetraining.org.uk/course/sage-thyme-acp

The next workshop will be held on Wed 12 Nov 2014 9am - 1pm and will cost £80 per person. To book a place please contact us: sageandthyme@uhsm.nhs.uk
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust has evaluated the confidence of 115 renal staff in 16 key communication skills after they participated in a SAGE & THYME foundation level workshop. The questionnaire response rate was 87% and the evaluation found that from pre to post workshop, all confidence ratings significantly increased and that staff were highly motivated to use the whole SAGE & THYME model in their practice (mean motivation score was 8.74 on a scale of 1-10).

The results were presented at UK Kidney Week in Glasgow on 2 May, by Sarah Brand, Matthew Tomlin, Mark Rigby and Emma Coyne. See ‘evidence and links’ section on our web site to view the poster.

NHS Lothian recently ran a ‘delivering better care’ conference aimed at nursing and midwifery staff from all areas of the organisation. Three of the SAGE & THYME facilitators (Jan Dobie, Jenny Doig and Marlis Plumb) gave a presentation on how to use the SAGE & THYME model to ‘listen before you jump’. They used a case study to explain how the model could be used to listen and respond to someone who was upset.

One Chance to Get It Right

Following the independent review of the Liverpool Care Pathway, the government has published 'One Chance to Get It Right'. This report summarises the system wide response to the review. It highlights five new priority areas of care.

Priority 5 is that a patient should have an individual care plan and to do this, members of staff need to have effective communication skills. The report lists SAGE & THYME as a communication skills training development resource that organisations can use.
Changes to training requirements for new S & T facilitators

You may, or may not, have heard that all new people wishing to become a SAGE & THYME facilitator, now need to have attended at UHSM-run workshop, before they can attend a SATFAC (SAGE & THYME facilitator) course.

We have changed the training requirements for the following reasons:

- It ensures that every person becoming a SAGE & THYME facilitator sees exactly how the workshop should be run (we are aware that some people deviate a bit over time).
- It ensures that all SATFAC delegates have attended the same workshop (if is it run the day before the SATFAC course).
- It provides good revision for people who have attended a workshop previously, so that they can spend the SATFAC course learning how to be a facilitator, and not just understanding the model.

From 2015, all SATFAC courses held at UHSM will have a SAGE & THYME foundation level workshop run the day before the SATFAC course.

Many of the organisations running the SAGE & THYME training now need to issue purchase order (PO) numbers, which should be quoted on any invoices sent to them.

If you don't already know whether your organisation issues PO numbers, then please check with your finance department, before you order delegate packs or book staff on the SAGE & THYME foundation level workshop or SATFAC course.

Accessing the trainer area of the web site

We are aware that not every SAGE & THYME facilitator has had the time to access the trainer area of the web site.

We would encourage you to do so, for tips on running the SAGE & THYME foundation level workshops, access to the presentations at the last conference, and films on various parts of the workshop.

If you have forgotten your password, or the link you were sent to give you access to the trainer area has expired, please contact us.

Large print delegate pack

We have received a couple of requests for the SAGE & THYME foundation level workshop pack to be in a larger font, for people with visual impairment.

We now have the pack materials available in bold size 20 font (no colour) for you to print, so please contact us for a copy if needed.

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