

# Improving lumbar puncture

## Project aim

THIS project aims to achieve the following:

1. Standardised LP kit that is readily available in a fixed location for easy access.
2. Correct procurement of compatible spinal needles and manometers, reducing delayed diagnosis and procedure failure due to mismatched equipment.

## Timeline for delivery

3 months

## Anticipated outcomes/benefits?

To have a regular stock of LP kits with appropriate equipment. To notify medical staff of where LP equipment can be found. This will reduce time to diagnosis, reduce the need for repeat LPs

Less time will be wasted trying to procure equipment. This will also ensure the right test is done at the right time to make a diagnosis with appropriate equipment.

## Area of focus

Ensuring equipment is available on Fleming

Improving education among medical juniors—running clinical teaching sessions to teach lumbar puncture procedure



## Project team

Dr Raissa Rachman - Project Manager  
Louise Barnes—Matron Fleming (MAU)  
Dr El-Karim - Consultant Acute Physician  
Dr Sabina Momtaz—Project member  
Dr Sheena Gupta—Project member

## Data

In our survey 50% of doctors said it took over 40 minutes to collect the right equipment for the procedure

50% of doctors stated that they had experienced problems with incompatible needles and manometers—some reported that this had happened multiple times!

## Learning and next steps

This project is in its initial stages, we are hoping to locate the spinal needles and manometers on Fleming (MAU)

We will circulate this information to juniors via email and grand round/foundation/core medical teaching

We plan to re-evaluate the process in 3 months time with a repeat survey to measure the impact and see any further improvements that can be made

