**The Impact of Schwartz Rounds in a Multidisciplinary Environment.**

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Schwartz Rounds provide a structured forum where all clinical and non-clinical staff meet, regularly (usually monthly), and discuss the emotional and social aspects of working in healthcare.

The purpose of the Rounds is to explore the challenges that are faced daily by staff providing care. Rounds are not to solve problems or to focus upon the clinical aspects of patient care.

The primary aim of the Rounds are to help staff to feel more supported in their roles. It provides time and space to reflect upon their roles in a safe, confidential environment. Evidence has demonstrated that staff who attend Scwartz Rounds feel less stressed and isolated and have an increased insight and appreciation for one another’s roles and responsibilities. They also assist in reducing hierarchies between all grades of staff and instead, focus upon relational aspects of care.

The overarching premise for Rounds is that the compassion shown and shared by staff can make a significant difference to a patient’s care experience – but, for staff to be able to provide compassionate care, they must, in turn, feel supported within their work.

We recently ran a Schwartz Round to 150 nursing students across adult, child, and mental health branches. This was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of the team involved in facilitating and supporting. We began with a fascinating Schwartz theory session, delving into the works of Kenneth Schwartz and Dr. Kiernan Sweeney, which set the stage for our Schwartz theme, "I'm Human Too." The session highlighted the importance of humanising the care we provide. We then shared two poignant stories from lecturers that resonated deeply with the students. The interprofessional benefits of this mixed student round were profound, as it fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diverse challenges and perspectives within different nursing specialisations. This collaborative environment not only enriched the learning experience, but also strengthened the sense of empathy and support among future healthcare professionals.

Preparing for the Schwartz Round was a detailed and collaborative process.  We started by thoroughly refreshing our knowledge of the works of Kenneth Schwartz and Dr. Kiernan Sweeney to ensure we could provide a comprehensive theory session. We coordinated with lecturers to select stories that aligned with our theme, "I'm Human Too," and ensured they were comfortable sharing their experiences. To promote interprofessional learning, we carefully planned seating arrangements to mix students from different branches, encouraging interaction and collaboration. Finally, we conducted a ‘dry run’ to iron out any potential issues and ensure a smooth, impactful event.

The Schwartz Round was a resounding success. The students were actively engaged, asking insightful questions and participating in meaningful discussions. The interprofessional mix of students from adult, child, and mental health branches fostered a rich exchange of perspectives, enhancing their appreciation for the diverse challenges faced in different nursing specialisations. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, with many students expressing how the session had profoundly impacted their approach to patient care. Overall, the event not only met but exceeded our expectations, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

There are several key factors to remember when running a Round. Our ‘storytellers’ ensured that their stories did not focus upon the clinical aspect of patient care. Their focus was upon the understanding of an experience from a social and emotional perspective. Rounds are not a form of clinical supervision or debriefing, and if staff have been involved in a particularly difficult situation there should be a period of time prior to this being brought to a Round.

In an increasingly difficult time working within our NHS, it is often easily forgotten why we came into our professional roles in the first instance. Schwartz Rounds remind us of the importance of time taken to reflect upon compassionate care, share stories and experiences, and remember that our patients are at the heart of everything that we do.