

Tri-Collegiate Membership in Paediatric Dentistry Clinical Governance Project

Candidate number

Title: An audit of paediatric dentistry prescribing practices

Background: Bacterial resistance to antibiotics is increasing. This is attributed to inappropriate prescribing of antimicrobials by health care professionals. The first cycle of this audit highlighted deficiencies in prescribing practices in the paediatric departments of 3 Dental Hospitals.

Aim: This second audit cycle was to evaluate if prescribing practices in the three hospitals had improved following education and training.

Objectives:

1. To examine if antibiotic therapy is used appropriately
2. To assess prescription accuracy
3. To determine if sugar-free elixirs are prescribed

Methodology: A retrospective case-note evaluation of 90 paediatric dental patients; 30 from each centre, who had been issued with a prescription was performed. Data was collected over a ten month period using a data collection sheet and analysed using Microsoft Excel 2007.

Results:

The second audit cycle demonstrated:

- Clinically appropriate prescriptions increased by 19% to 52%
- Accuracy of prescription completion decreased by 5% to 46%
- Prescription of sugar free medication increased by 14% to 67%

Recommendation & Action Plan:

Results were fed back to each hospital department.

Further staff training and guidelines for new staff were provided.

An aide memoire for use when completing prescription forms was provided.

Conclusion: Appropriateness of prescribing has improved significantly following educational intervention and training; however, the accuracy of prescribing has decreased. This audit highlighted that while improvements have been made, deficiencies in our practice still exist.