EVALUATION OF TOLERABILITY AND DEPRESCRIBING OF ANTI-FIBROTICS IN PULMONARY FIBROSIS (IPF) PATIENTS

Sharon Chadwick. Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted, UK
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Background IPF is a progressive fibrotic lung disease of unknown cause. Median survival for IPF patients is approximately three years from diagnosis. NICE guidance states that best supportive care should be offered from diagnosis to provide information, symptom relief and support withdrawal of therapies suspected to be ineffective or causing harm, and to provide end of life care (NICE, 2013). To this end, a hospice-based pulmonary fibrosis support group has been set up providing care for patients with IPF to improve access to palliative care support including consultant review. The anti-fibrotics nintedanib and pirfenidone (NICE, 2016; NICE, 2018) are recommended by NICE to slow the progression of the disease but have considerable side effects.

Aim This evaluation will collect data regarding the demographics of IPF patients seen, the source of referral and assess the proportion taking anti-fibrotics. The side effects experienced by patients will be described and obstacles in deprescribing anti-fibrotics outlined.

Methods A retrospective case note review will be performed to extract data from the narrative. This will be used to identify whether there are certain characteristics that these patients share in order to inform decisions regarding those who may be unable to tolerate anti-fibrotics in the future.

Result It is anticipated that many patients taking anti-fibrotics will experience significant side effects. There may be shared characteristics that enable us to predict which patients cannot tolerate these drugs that can have a significant and detrimental effect on quality of life of patients.

Conclusions The hospice has a highly evaluated IPF support group that provides professional and peer support to patients/families. It facilitates access to the Palliative Medicine Consultant who is able to support patients in discontinuing anti-fibrotic drugs that can adversely affect quality of life. The characteristics of patients who do not tolerate anti-fibrotics are outlined and obstacles in deprescribing described.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING AND MEDICINES’ ADMINISTRATION (EPMA) INTO A HOSPICE SETTING

1Katherine Oakley, 1Lynda Simpson, 1,2Deborah Smart, 1Karen Causton, 1,2Anne Regan, 1Sue O’Neill. 1St Helena, Colchester, UK; 2East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, Colchester, UK
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Background ePMA is used in many UK hospitals, but not in hospices. It can reduce prescribing errors, enable more efficient administration of medicines and free up staff to spend more time with patients (Ahmed, Garfield, Jani, Jheeta et al., 2016). St Helena introduced SystmOne into clinical practice in 2012 and implemented ePMA into the inpatient unit (IPU) in November 2018.

Aims To reduce drug errors, improve patient safety, strengthen information governance, and enable staff to use their time more efficiently.

Methods A project team of IPU and SystmOne managers, senior pharmacy staff and a consultant was set up and pre-implementation research undertaken, including visits to other healthcare settings. A business plan highlighted training needs and cost implications. Specific formularies were built, mobile ‘computers on wheels’ (COWs) were ordered, the risk register was updated and training sessions for all clinical and pharmacy staff (group and 1-2-1) were delivered. We initially implemented ePMA incrementally as each new patient was admitted, and provided increased technical support to staff, including at evenings and weekends.

Results We identified that 40% of our recorded drug errors may not occur with ePMA, for example lost drug charts. We remained vigilant for new or unanticipated errors, and dealt with them swiftly.

Since implementation, the number of drug errors has fallen by 35% (from 28 to 18). A small increase level 2 errors (Hospice UK, 2017), from 3 to 4 has been noted, none related directly to ePMA.

Informal feedback from staff and patients has been positive, e.g. nurses have more ward time, patients do not feel the COWs detract from their interactions with staff.

Conclusion The system is now fully embedded in the inpatient setting. This year we plan to complete an audit, support other interested hospices, carry out staff and patient satisfaction surveys and implement discharge medication functionality.