Use of an Antibiotic Checklist to Improve Antibiotic Prescribing on AMU

Andrew Hardy, Ruth Johnson, Louise Tweddell, Mel Johnson
Department of Acute Medicine Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, UK

Antibiotic prescribing is common in acute medicine units. Good prescribing practice includes:

1. A clear indication for antibiotics
2. An appropriate choice and route
3. Regular review of prescribing
4. Early switch to oral narrow spectrum agents where appropriate

A Multidisciplinary Trust Antibiotic Working Group aimed to improve antibiotic prescribing on AMU

**Methods**

- Audit undertaken in February 2012 - reviewed all antibiotic prescriptions on one day
- An antibiotic prescribing checklist was developed to address poor prescribing habits found in audit
- Checklist sticker attached to the prescription chart
- Follow-up audit undertaken during and after the sticker test phase

**Results**

- During the test phase 50% of patients on antibiotics had a checklist sticker
- There was an increase in good prescribing practice in those with a checklist sticker
- 6 of 7 measures audited improved
- Following the test phase compliance with these measures fell to baseline

**Outcomes**

- Good antibiotic prescribing practice was higher in those with a checklist sticker
- Trial period too short to assess the impact on antibiotic costs and incidence of complications
- A revised Trust prescription chart which includes checklist elements is under trial
- Ongoing audit and monitoring is being undertaken