

EXAMPLE PROJECT ON ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING IN GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE.

3.1 Background.

The prescribing of antimicrobials is a very important aspect of patient care.

This project will enable groups to assess their current prescribing protocols and compare them with "Best Practice" recommendations. The group will also be able to assess the effectiveness of their prescribing on the patients they treat.

3.2 What To Look At.

These are some examples of topics you may wish to consider as part of your project and you may wish to include other topics of your own choice.

- What antimicrobials do we use?
- What doses?
- Why do we use them?
- What evidence do we have to support our criteria?
- How do our criteria compare with "best practice" recommendations?
- How successful is the treatment?

3.3 Who Will Be Involved In The Project?

- Dentists.
- Nurses and/or Reception Staff to help with patients' follow-ups.
- Patients.

3.4 What are the Standards and Evidence Base?

In order to determine the current best practice recommendations, a search will need to be undertaken. The BNF is one example of literature that will provide useful information. It is also recommended that you find out what information is available from such bodies as the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, BDA etc. A search of relevant articles in leading Journals should also be undertaken.

Details of the references you use to support your project will need to be listed in your application.

3.5 What Outcomes Should You Look To Achieve?

- Improved patient care by ensuring they receive appropriate treatment, which is supported by "Best Practice" recommendations.
- Consider your current rationale and prescribing protocols.
- Identify areas for improvement and other day to day problems.

3.6 What methodology should be used?

- Decide how many meetings will be required and give brief details of what will be done at each meeting.
- The group should discuss their current prescribing methods before reviewing the research material.
- Design and pilot an information sheet for collecting the data.
- Decide on sample size and when the survey will be commenced. (At least 30 patients).
- Consider outcomes of treatments given with prescriptions. Look at best practice guidelines in all cases to see if the prescription alone was appropriate or if some other intervention, with or without prescription is indicated.
- Ensure all patients are followed up and monitored.
- Compare your prescribing profile with the recommended "Best Practice" procedures.
- Consider changes you need to make and how you will implement and assess these

3.7 What data do you need to collect?

These are just some examples of the information you may wish to include in your information sheets;

- Patient details.

- Diagnosis.
- Medication prescribed, dose and duration.
- Was the prescribing of antimicrobials appropriate for the diagnosed condition
- Other treatment given for the condition.
- Some way of assessing the patient's degree of pain so that a follow up scores can be taken to assess outcomes.
- Any general comments e.g. Allergies, drug interactions etc.

3.8 What Should Be Included In The Final Summary?

The results of the project will need to be presented in an anonymised way. The following topics should also be mentioned.

1. Brief details of what was discussed at each group meeting.
2. Details of any problems that were identified and how they were dealt with.
3. Details of improvements made and how they were implemented.
4. The educational benefits that the group members identified from the project and any other areas.
5. The results of the group must be collated into your final summary. Completion forms should, preferably, be filled in by computer and submitted electronically

National Audit: 1000 Lives Antimicrobial Prescribing Audit

The Dental Postgraduate Section, Wales Deanery in collaboration with 1000 Lives Plus have developed an Antimicrobial Prescribing Audit for General Dental Practitioners. It has been developed and tested by GDPs in Wales.

The aims of this audit are to:

1. Support the most effective clinical use of antimicrobials
2. Reduce the number of unnecessary prescriptions.

Completed audits qualify for 3 hours verifiable CPD and associated funding (£195.21) for dentists with an NHS Performer Number. You will need to register for the audit by completing an AMP1 form and submit your data electronically.

For further information or to request an electronic copy of the AMP 1 form please contact Heather Stewart on 02920 687780 or via email StewartH5@cardiff.ac.uk. Or alternatively the registration form and guidance notes are available to download from the Wales Deanery Website.