

Audit: Medical reviews at Severn Hospice Day Unit

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Background

- Handover is a vital part of safe and effective healthcare provision
- However, there is little evidence available on safe handover in hospice patients
- Due to the complex nature of palliative patients, optimising communication between services should be a priority

Aim

To assess the efficiency of communication between doctors at both Shrewsbury and Telford Severn Hospice day units and GPs following a medical review.

Method

- All patient contacts with both day units between 1st October 2013 and 31st March 2014
- Used iCare computer system to review all medical reviews taking place in day unit
- Recorded: date of review, Number of working days between that review and the letter being written, reason for review and If reviewed for pain management, this was then categorised
 1. Starting/increasing/continuing an opioid
 2. Switching/adding an opioid
 3. Adding adjuvants

Results

- 272 patient contacts during 6 month period; 130 in Shrewsbury, 142 in Telford
- 96 medical reviews were carried out ; 27 in Shrewsbury, 69 in Telford
- 69 letters [79%] were written on the day of review; 22 letters [23%] were written the following day and 5 [5%] were written 2 working days after the review

Reason for review	N	%
Analgesia	36	34%
Other*	22	21%
Antimicrobials	15	14%
GI symptoms	21	20%
Nursing Care	3	3%
Respiratory symptoms	9	8%

Of the 36 analgesia reviews, they were categorised as follows:

Category 1: 22 [61%]

Category 2: 10 [28%]

Category 3: 4 [11%]

- *anxiety, itching, antidepressant, fluid overload,*
- *general deterioration, repeat prescriptions*

Conclusion and Recommendations

- Encouraging data that demonstrates efficient communication between services
- We need to continue this efficiency
- Following a review and standardisation of the Severn Hospice discharge summary, do we need to review the content of the review letters?