Choosing Wisely in Infection
A synthesis of international English language infection recommendations

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Choosing Wisely

Launched in 2012 by the American Board of Internal Medicine, the aim of Choosing Wisely is to reduce unnecessary testing or treatment. The campaign brings together information from a wide range of medical institutions and clinical societies in the United States (US) to improve doctor-patient communication and tackle the overuse of medical resources. (www.choosingwisely.org)

Global Campaign

Since the initial work in the US, a number of countries have taken up this initiative, but the information and recommendations generated by these independent campaigns has not been collated. The Academy of Healthcare Professionals and patients supporting recommendations and evidence to global healthcare professionals and patients.

Importance

The global antimicrobial resistance crisis means that antimicrobial use must be optimised. Additionally, 1 in 5 hospitalised patients prescribed an antibiotic develops a clinically important adverse effect. Diagnostic stewardship is also an emerging initiative. £2.5 billion/year is spent on NHS pathology services (4% of NHS expenditure, rising by 10% per annum over the past 3 years). In England, over 50 million microbiology requests are processed each year. Optimising the investigation and treatment of patients with infection is therefore vital. (Unassigned variants; Lancet Comr Review 2016)

4 key areas of focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/Specialty</th>
<th>Proportion (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generic</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary Tract</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
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Discussion

Although campaigns were from different countries with a variety of healthcare systems, there was relatively good alignment of recommendations. The opportunities to optimise the testing and therapy, and cost-effectiveness of care, of infections therefore appears to be relatively similar across high income countries. Ultimately, the success of such campaigns will depend on healthcare professionals and patients supporting recommendations and evidence to demonstrate a beneficial impact of doing so. There is considerable potential synergy between global Choosing Wisely and antimicrobial stewardship initiatives, which could be exploited further to the benefit of both campaigns.

Future Work

This project has focused on English-language versions of Choosing Wisely from developed healthcare systems. Recommendations from low and middle income countries and those without English translations need to be synthesised to gain a more accurate global overview of Choosing Wisely infection and antibiotic guidance.

Aim

This project aims to synthesise existing international Choosing Wisely recommendations relevant to infection.

Methods

A systematic search of the internet was undertaken for published English language (under the banner of Choosing Wisely) recommendations relating to the investigation and treatment of infection. A total of 163 recommendations were found and then organised thematically to highlight areas of agreement/similarity between different global Choosing Wisely initiatives.