

Sore throat audit

Aim:

To evaluate antibiotic prescribing for Sore Throat symptoms against the NICE clinical guideline 69 Respiratory tract infections-antibiotic prescribing and Health Protection Agency or local Infection management guidelines.

Audit requirements

Consultation records with the following clinical conditions (or the corresponding Read code) need to be searched for:

- 1C9.. Sore throat symptom
- H02.. Acute pharyngitis
- H03.. Acute tonsillitis
- H040. Acute laryngitis
- 1C9.. Throat soreness
- A340. Streptococcal sore throat
- H02.. Viral sore throat NOS
- H02.. Throat infection - pharyngitis
- H024. Acute viral pharyngitis
- H02z. Acute pharyngitis NOS
- H03.. Throat infection - tonsillitis
- H03.. Tonsillitis
- H031. Acute follicular tonsillitis
- H036. Acute viral tonsillitis
- H037. Recurrent acute tonsillitis
- H03z. Acute tonsillitis NOS
- 1C92. Has a sore throat
- 1CB3. Throat pain

Ideally, there should be at least 20 consultations analysed to determine overall compliance with NICE and HPA Primary Care guidance.

Compliance with the decision to treat a patient with a respiratory tract infection can be determined by using the care pathway present in NICE clinical guideline 69 Respiratory Tract infections-antibiotic prescribing

<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12015/41322/41322.pdf>).

Patients with 1 or none of the centor criteria are most unlikely to have a bacterial sore throat, therefore the delayed antibiotic prescription is an option if the patient or GP are unsure of the most appropriate approach, especially if the patient is not able to return to the surgery, or the GP is not prepared to take the "risk" of a no prescribing option.

Patients with 2 criteria may merit testing, including rapid antigen tests. Antibiotic prescription should be limited to patients with 3 or 4 criteria. If Centor score 3 or 4: (Lymphadenopathy; No Cough; Fever; Tonsillar Exudate) consider 2 or 3-day delayed or immediate antibiotics or rapid antigen test.

Compliance with the antibiotic(s) prescribed, dose, frequency and duration can be determined using the HPA Primary Care guidance (<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/PrimaryCareGuidance/>) or local PCT guidance for sore throats. The current HPA Primary Care Guidance states the following for acute sore throats:

ILLNESS	COMMENTS	DRUG	ADULT DOSE	DURATION OF TREATMENT
<p>Error! Reference source not found.</p> <p>CKS</p>	<p>Avoid antibiotics as 90% resolve in 7 days without, and pain only reduced by 16 hours ^{2A+}</p> <p>If Centor score 3 or 4: (Lymphadenopathy; No Cough; Fever; Tonsillar Exudate) ^{3A-} consider 2 or 3-day delayed or immediate antibiotics ^{1,A+} or rapid antigen test.</p> <p>RCT in <18yr olds shows 10d had lower relapse ⁸</p> <p>Antibiotics to prevent Quinsy NNT >4000 ^{4B-}</p> <p>Antibiotics to prevent Otitis media NNT 200 ^{2A+}</p>	<p>phenoxymethylpenicillin ^{5B-}</p> <p><i>Penicillin Allergy:</i></p> <p>Clarithromycin</p>	<p>500 mg QDS ☺ 1G BD ^{6A+}</p> <p>(QDS when severe ^{7D})</p> <p>250-500mg BD ☺</p>	<p>10 days ^{8A-}</p> <p>5 days ^{9A+}</p>

Results

The following two tables show the results that should be recorded

	NICE criteria met	NICE criteria not met	Total
Immediate Prescribing			
Delayed Prescribing			
No prescribing			
Total			

Total number of patients prescribed an antibiotic	
Antibiotic Choice Correct	
Dose Correct	
Frequency Correct	
Course Length Correct	
All Parameters of Antibiotic Prescribing Correct	

Calculations:

Overall compliance with NICE guidance (whether to prescribe) = $\frac{\text{total NICE criteria met}}{\text{total number of patients (NICE criteria met + NICE criteria not met)}} \times 100$

Overall compliance to HPA Primary Care guidance = $\frac{\text{all parameters of antibiotic prescribing correct}}{\text{total number of patients prescribed an antibiotic}} \times 100$

Actions: