

Background and Goals

Background

Education on appropriate use of antimicrobials is essential to ensure that patients achieve best clinical outcomes, while reducing development of adverse drug effects and antimicrobial resistance.

Clinical tools that summarize differences between antimicrobials and best practice treatments of common infections are beneficial in standardizing and promoting appropriate antimicrobial prescribing.

Goals

1. To develop clinical tools that would assist clinicians in optimizing antimicrobial use.
2. To update the antibiogram based on clinicians' needs and requirements
3. To provide a resource for renal dosage adjustment recommendations
4. To summarize clinical practice guidelines for common infections based on local susceptibility and resistance patterns
5. To educate prescribers and promote antimicrobial stewardship practices

Overview

Anti-infective Comparison Card

- The Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme (ASPIRES), Medical Microbiology, Pharmacy, and Infectious Diseases at the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) compiled the Anti-infective Comparison Card
- Summary of dosing regimens for anti-infectives on the drug formulary
- Antibiogram of common pathogens and susceptibility patterns
- During the development process, clinicians were consulted for their input in order to ensure the resource met their needs

Common Infections Treatment Card

- The Common Infections Treatment Card includes treatment guidelines for common infectious diseases syndromes
- Physician stakeholder feedback from specialty groups was obtained to ensure that recommendations reflected local practices and susceptibility patterns
- These resources were developed as pocket-sized cards and as a Portable Document Format (PDF) available online

Results



Figure 1. Anti-infective Comparison Card



Figure 2. Antibiogram

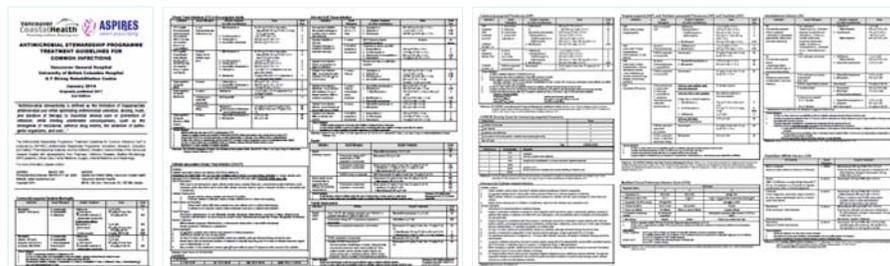


Figure 3. Treatment Guidelines for Common Infections Card

Results

An Anti-infective Comparison Card and a Common Infections Treatment Card were developed as clinical tools for prescribers.

- The Anti-infective Comparison Card provides general principles on appropriate anti-infective use.
- The Common Infections Treatment Card summarizes clinical practice guidelines for treatment of:
 - *Clostridium difficile* infection
 - Community-acquired pneumonia
 - Hospital-associated pneumonia,
 - Aspiration pneumonia
 - Intra-abdominal infections
 - Meningitis
 - Skin and soft tissue infections
 - Urinary tract infections.

More than 500 copies of the Anti-infective Comparison Card and the Common Infections Treatment Card have been distributed to Vancouver Coastal health care providers.

Challenges

- Approval from stakeholders to review and endorse clinical guidelines
- Complexity in evaluating usage of clinical guidelines
- Difficulty in assessing utility of clinical resources

Summary and Conclusion

Clinical tools have been developed at VGH to assist prescribers on appropriate antimicrobial use.

The clinical cards have been individualized at other Vancouver Coastal Health sites, such as Lions Gate Hospital and Richmond Hospital, based on their local needs and antibiotic susceptibility patterns.

Future Plans

- The clinical practice guidelines can be formulated into pre-printed orders to assist clinicians in prescribing treatments
- An audit can be performed to determine compliance with guidelines
- A survey can be conducted to determine clinician satisfaction with the clinical tools.

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