Implementation and Evaluation of an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in the Outpatient Setting

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ABSTRACT

Background and Purpose: Antibiotics have transformed the delivery of healthcare and become an indispensable constituent of medicine. The rapidly emerging crisis of antibiotic resistance threatens the efficacy of antibiotics and has created a global health threat. Paradoxically, as the need for new antibiotics grows, healthcare has witnessed sharp declines in antimicrobial research and innovation. Professional organizations have called for urgent action to arrest the decline and ensure that antimicrobial development is sustained.

Method: An ASP was designed, implemented, and evaluated in the outpatient setting of a community hospital in the Northwestern USA. Participants included 33 NPs, MDs, and PAs. The program was implemented in the outpatient clinics for predominately viral illnesses. Moreover, the 20% community outreach and education was also effective; 10% (P <0.05) fewer patients presented to the clinics for predominately viral illnesses. The community outreach and education was also effective; 10% (P <0.05) fewer patients presented to the clinics for predominately viral illnesses. The community outreach and education was also effective; 10% (P <0.05) fewer patients presented to the clinics for predominately viral illnesses. The community outreach and education was also effective; 10% (P <0.05) fewer patients presented to the clinics for predominately viral illnesses. The community outreach and education was also effective; 10% (P <0.05) fewer patients presented to the clinics for predominately viral illnesses.

RESULTS

Provider Resources: Treatment algorithms informed by local resistance patterns were distributed to each provider (Figure 3).

Provider Education: Monthly ASP presentations to providers on a variety of topics, including best practices for antibiotic use (Figure 2).

Patient Education: Providers displayed their personalized commitment to stewardship in all exam rooms (Figure 1). An AMS announcement was run in local paper (Figure 2).

CONCLUSIONS

The profound need to protect antibiotics necessitates changes in the healthcare field. Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs optimize the appropriate and safe use of antibiotics, enhance clinical outcomes, decrease unintended consequences, and support providers in clinical practice. As outpatient ASPs become increasingly necessary, nurse clinicians have the unique skillset to design and lead these programs in a meaningful way.