Antibiotic Assessment at Hospital Discharge – Room for Stewardship Intervention

Prakash Balasubramanian, MD1, Paul Lata, PharmD1, Meredith Peters, MD2, Christopher Crnich, MD, PhD1,3, Susanne Barnett, PharmD1,4

1) William S Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI, 2) University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, Madison, WI, 3) University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI, 4) University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy, Madison, WI

Synopsis

- The Antimicrobial Stewardship Team (AST) evaluated the appropriateness of antibiotics prescribed at discharge.
- 705 patients over a 15 month period were evaluated.
- Antibiotic prescribing was “inappropriate” in 70 patients or 1 in every 10 cases reviewed.
- COPD, pneumonia, and urinary tract infections (UTI) were the most common conditions where antibiotics were prescribed inappropriately.
- Azithromycin, cefpodoxime and cephalexin were antibiotics that were frequently prescribed inappropriately.
- Scrutiny at discharge is a tool that ASTs can use to identify inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions.

Background

- Literature on AST review of antibiotic prescribing in scarce.
- Recent retrospective cohort studies looking at discharge antibiotics has the potential to:
  - Ensure appropriate coverage and duration of therapy
  - Decrease community antimicrobial resistance
  - Decrease side effects due to antibiotics
  - Decrease healthcare costs
- Here we report our experience with regards to the utility of the AST assessing the appropriateness of antibiotic prescribing at discharge.

Methods

- Between June 2017 and September 2018 (collection dates modified), the AST reviewed the electronic health record (EHR) of patients discharged from the hospital on oral antibiotics for appropriateness.
- Parameters of assessment included:
  - Need for antibiotic
  - Choice of antibiotic
  - Dosing of antibiotic
  - Duration of therapy
- Reviews occurred biweekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and included patients discharged in the previous 3-4 days.
- Patients with recommendations from the Infectious Disease consult service were excluded.
- If antibiotic prescribing was felt to be inappropriate, the case was discussed with the prescribing service and/or team pharmacist.
- Recommendations were documented in the EHR with an emphasis on education.
- Inpatient providers, the AST, and the patient’s primary care provider shared the responsibility of alerting the patient of any changes in antibiotic prescriptions.
- The data was logged using Microsoft Access Database and descriptive statistics were performed using Microsoft Excel.
- For the purposes of data analysis, when one intervention included a combination of antibiotics, these were included separately.

Results

- Antibiotics were deemed to be “inappropriate” in 70 of these patients.
- 70 interventions were logged on a total of 78 antibiotic prescriptions. The majority (44%) of these interventions were primarily educational, and no response to the intervention was assessed.
- Of the remaining 26 interventions, the recommendation made by the AST was accepted in 52%.
- COPD (22%), Pneumonia (17%), UTI (17%), and skin and soft tissue infections (16%) were the most common disease states intervened on.
- Azithromycin, Cefpodoxime, and Cephalexin were the most common antibiotics intervened on.
- 80% (n = 15) of Azithromycin interventions were prescribed for COPD. Common reasons for intervention were: drug not indicated (47%), and inappropriate drug selection (40%).

Conclusions

- Over 15 months, records of 705 patients discharged on oral antibiotics were reviewed. This covered discharges over 259 hospital days.
- Antibiotics were deemed to be “inappropriate” in 70 of these patients.
- The majority (44%) of these interventions were primarily educational, and no response to the intervention was assessed.
- Of the remaining 26 interventions, the recommendation made by the AST was accepted in 52%.
- COPD (22%), Pneumonia (17%), UTI (17%), and skin and soft tissue infections (16%) were the most common disease states intervened on.
- Azithromycin, Cefpodoxime, and Cephalexin were the most common antibiotics intervened on.
- 80% (n = 15) of Azithromycin interventions were prescribed for COPD. Common reasons for intervention were: drug not indicated (47%), and inappropriate drug selection (40%).

References

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