

It's time to set 'sights' on being the same as everyone else. Uniqueness is overrated.



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Introduction

- Treatment of ophthalmic infections are determined by senior practitioners
- This results in differing ophthalmic guidelines across multisite local health districts
- Inconsistent prescribing practices lead to possible treatment confusion, error, and difficulty in regular monitoring of Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)
- Introduction of electronic prescribing (eMEDs) across SESLHD and affiliated LHDs necessitated the AMS Clinical Applications Advisory Group (AMS CAAG) to review antimicrobial ophthalmic guidelines to standardise prescribing

Background

- AMS Clinical Applications Advisory Group (AMS CAAG) for the SESLHD is a unique group which incorporates multiple LHDs for antimicrobial review
- AMS CAAG consists of members from the Sydney Children's Hospital, South Eastern Sydney, Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District
- AMS CAAG regulates all electronic antimicrobial content for eMEDs and GuidanceMS, which is the electronic approval system, for the LHD



Aim

To ensure consistent and uniform prescribing across a large local health district by using electronic platforms to standardise ophthalmic guidelines.

Method

- A comprehensive list of ophthalmic antimicrobials to be reviewed for eMEDs were identified by the SESLHD IT analyst
- With the assistance of an Ophthalmology Fellow, the AMS pharmacist at Sydney and Sydney Eye Hospital finalised the list and developed relevant indications
- Doses were confirmed with literature such as the Sydney Eye Hospital Pharmacopoeia App and Moorfields Eye Hospital App
- Restrictions based on the traffic light system were established to assist with AMS compliance
- The final list was discussed and approved by the multisite AMS CAAG



- An ophthalmic indication subcategory was created in the Guidance electronic approval system to ensure information was easily accessible
- As a result of the availability of guidelines at the point of prescribing and whilst obtaining AMS approval numbers, increased consistency of prescribing patterns was demonstrated
- Locally, at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, antimicrobial approvals have seen a 230% increase over a 12 months period

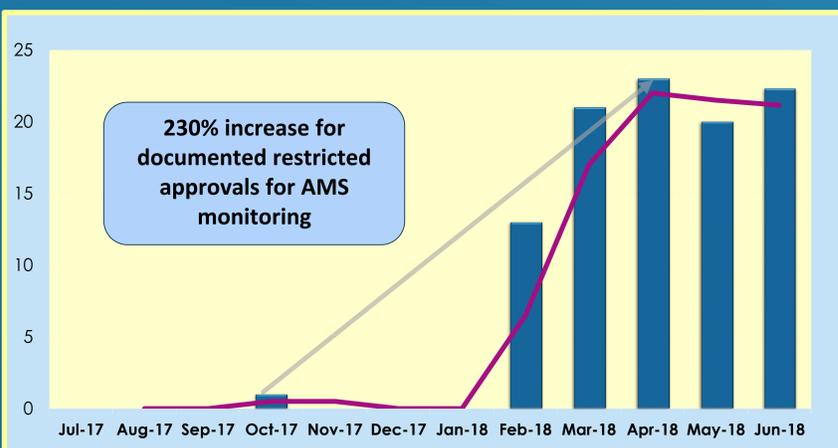
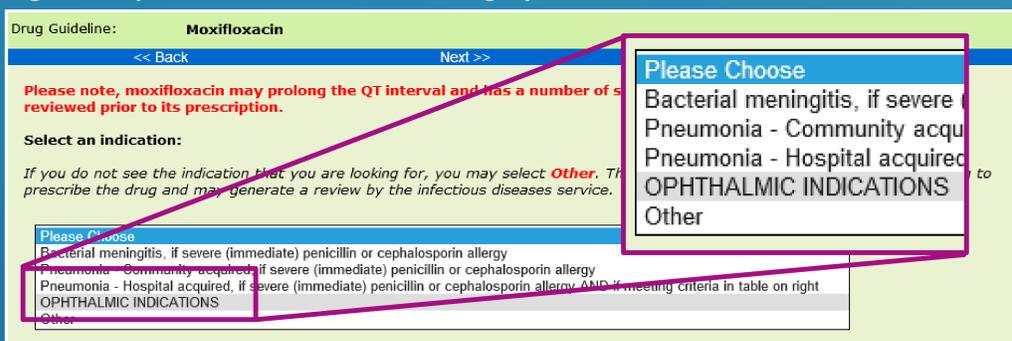
Results

- Ophthalmic antimicrobial guidelines were developed for inclusion into both eMEDs and GuidanceMS

60 indications and 190 orderlines were created for the two district-wide electronic prescribing programs

- For restricted antimicrobial monitoring, 32 indications were created for GuidanceMS

Figure 2: Ophthalmic Indications subcategory created in GuidanceMS



Graph 1: significant increase in the number of approvals obtained for restricted antibiotics for ophthalmology

Discussion

- The ophthalmic guidelines developed for eMEDs and Guidance is a unique project that involved district-wide collaboration, including ophthalmology specialists, AMS pharmacists and clinicians.
- The collaboration resulted in standardised digital support tools for prescribing of ophthalmic antibiotics across large health districts
- Improved prescribing practices have been observed after the implementation of the ophthalmic guidelines
- Clinicians working at multiple sites are able to prescribe uniformly across the district
- Increased antimicrobial stewardship approval numbers have also been recorded due to the availability of defined ophthalmic indications
- The project shows opportunity exists for developing electronic guidelines in other medical specialities across local health districts, and possibly statewide

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