

Drug & Therapeutics Committee RBHSC

The minutes of meeting held 13th January 2023 (via Microsoft Teams)

Present: Dr Dara O'Donoghue (Chair)
Dr Rob Johnston
Dr Peter Fee
[REDACTED]
Ms Patrice Eastwood
Mrs Bernie McShane
Mr Joe McCann
Ms Suzanne Lawther

Apologies: Judith Martin
Andrew Sands

Matters arising

Surgical VTE prophylaxis box on kardex

Patrice Eastwood presented an update on the surgical VTE box. It is anticipated that this can be incorporated into the regional paediatric kardex. Patrice Eastwood has done a lot of work in this area including a pilot within paediatric surgery. She is re-auditing its use to include Gastroenterology and PICU patients. The main stumbling block is people forgetting to risk assess kids over 13 years. There was a discussion between the Committee members as to merits of amending the kardex given that the introduction of Encompass may supercede the present kardex- which may then be redundant. While the VTE prophylaxis box was approved there was a wider discussion about review of the Kardex generally. Dr O'Donoghue noted that half a page is devoted to oxygen prescribing. However, this is very rarely completed. It was suggested that this could be minimized to use a much smaller portion of the kardex. It was noted that injectable antimicrobials cause most kardex re-writes in the ward and it was suggested that extra pages in the kardex may reduce the chances of them needing re-written. Dr O'Donoghue will approach Dr Sands who sits on the Editorial Board regarding the process of kardex review.

Action: Dr D O'Donoghue

Infectious diseases update

Paediatric Gentamicin prescription sheet

The regional paediatric gentamicin kardex was presented by Neil Dawson. It was noted that this has been approved by the Northern Ireland Paediatric Education, Audit and Research (NI PEAR) Network following extensive QIP work led by Dr Shaun O'Hagan Paediatric ST2. This work was presented at the most recent Royal College of Paediatrics Annual Meeting. The kardex was reviewed by the Committee

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and approved.

Action: Dr O'Donoghue

Parecoxib Injection guideline for Acute Pain (Children 1-18 years)

The guideline was presented by Joe McCann and reviewed by the Committee. The section on prescribing for children with renal impairment was discussed. It was noted that the guidance specifies that healthcare professionals should 'monitor renal function carefully and ensure adequate hydration throughout treatment'. Some further clarity was requested around regarding the threshold for creatinine clearance for prescribing in renal impairment. Joe McCann will review this and present at the next Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

Action: Joe McCann

Extra-corporeal photopheresis policy

Extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) has emerged as a second line alternative treatment for patients with steroid refractory GvH to minimise the side effects of traditional therapies such as high dose corticosteroids. The Guideline was reviewed by the Committee. There were no specific concerns and the policy was approved.

Action: Dr O'Donoghue

Any other business

No other business

Next meeting: Friday 7th April 2023 at 12.30