

Infectious Smiles

Focus on Anti-infectives



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Audit and feedback on antibiotic prescribing for dentists

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Providing dentists with audit and feedback (A&F) on their antibiotic prescribing may reduce antibiotic prescribing rates, according to the results of the Reducing Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry (RAPiD) study published in PLOS Medicine.¹

“ Approximately 10% of dispensed antibiotics in the UK are prescribed by dentists, yet they are often prescribed inappropriately, despite clear guidance¹ “

The study involved all 795 prescribing National Health Service dental practices in Scotland, who were randomized to control (no A&F; n=163 practices, n=567 dentists) or A&F intervention groups (n=632 practices, n=1,999 dentists).¹

The intervention involved providing dentists with an individualized graph of their monthly prescribing rate, derived from two routinely collected electronic healthcare databases, with or without a written message outlining national guideline recommendations for dental antibiotic prescribing.¹

The total number of antibiotic items dispensed per 100 NHS claims 12 months after the initial A&F decreased from 8.3 to 7.9 in the control group, and from 8.5 to 7.5 in the intervention group.¹

“ Prescribing rates for dentists who received individualized feedback were reduced by 5.7% compared to those who did not (95% confidence interval [CI] -10.2% to -1.1%; p=0.01).¹ “

The greatest effect was seen for dentists who had also received written behaviour change feedback, in whom there was a 6.1% reduction in antibiotic prescribing rates compared with those who did not (95% CI -10.4% to -1.9%; p=0.01).¹

The investigators concluded that routinely collected datasets can provide A&F for dentists and significantly reduce dental antibiotic prescribing rates.¹ This approach could help the entire healthcare profession tackle the increasing challenge of antimicrobial resistance.¹

Reference:

1. Elouafkaoui P, Young L, Newlands R, Duncan EM, Elders A, Clarkson JE, et al. An audit and feedback intervention for reducing antibiotic prescribing in general dental practice: The RAPiD cluster randomised controlled trial. PLoS Med 2016; 13(8): e1002115.