Acute Prescribing Learning Network

Example measurement plan

Project aim	By December 2022, reduce the rate of acute prescriptions issued per 1,000 patients by 20%.
Change ideas	1. Introducing medication reviews for patients issued repeatable acute prescriptions. 2. Signposting to Pharmacy First service.

Name of measure	Why it's important to look at this	How this measure is calculated	How data will be collected
Outcome measure			
Rate of acute prescriptions issued monthly per 1,000 patients.	Helps to understand whether changes being tested are resulting in a reduction in the number of acute prescriptions issued.	Number of acute prescriptions issued in a given calendar month/(list size/1000).	Reviewed monthly in the Scottish Therapeutics Utility (STU).
Process measures			
Number of patients from the chosen repeatable acutes category given holistic polypharmacy review.	Helps to measure progress on medication review change idea and provision of best practice medication reviews.	Number of patients from Repeatable Acutes list reviewed in a given calendar week.	Weekly log of reviews conducted, issues and outcomes kept by clinicians and submitted to project lead.
Percentage of patients subsequently switched to permissible repeats.	Allows us to understand whether this change idea is contributing to a reduction in the number of acute prescriptions issued.	Number of patients suitable for permissible repeats/Total number of patients reviewed.	
Number of patients referred to Pharmacy First service for acute prescriptions.	Signposting patients to Pharmacy First is one of the change ideas being tested. Allows measurement of impact and confirms whether this idea is helping towards overall outcome measure.	Number of patients directed to Pharmacy First by reception staff in a given week.	Weekly tally sheet completed by reception staff.

Name of measure	Why it's important to look at this	How this measure is calculated	How data will be collected
Patient Satisfaction.	Important to measure user experience, and measure satisfaction with change in how patients access their medicines.	Satisfaction survey issued three months after switch to permissible repeats (we will also measure response rates).	Survey returns and collation by practice manager.
Balancing measures			
Number of phone calls from community pharmacy relating directly to medicines changed to repeat supplies.	Medication changes can result in extra workload for community pharmacy and subsequently for practice staff as clarification is sought on issues. Measuring this will allow us to understand and mitigate as required.	Count of phone calls from community pharmacy regarding medication changes in chosen repeatable acutes category in a given week.	Weekly tally sheet completed by reception staff.
Number of non-acute related pharmaceutical care issues identified in patient reviews.	Carrying out a holistic polypharmacy review may identify more issues than just the acute prescriptions issued. Tracking the number of these issues/interventions illustrates added value to the project and can improve patient safety outcomes.	Number of pharmaceutical care issued identified by polypharmacy reviews that are not related to the acute prescribing in a given week.	Weekly log of reviews conducted, issues and outcomes kept by clinicians and submitted to project lead.

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