



Improving prescription of pre-admission eye drops in secondary care.

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INTRODUCTION

Prevalence of chronic eye conditions requiring regular eye drops increases with age.¹

Poor vision leads to increased falls, confusion, and delirium.² Whereas, dry eyes increases the risk of infection³ and untreated underlying eye conditions can become worse during a prolonged admission.

With a growing elderly population, it is crucial that pre-admission eye drops (PED) are prescribed when patients are admitted.

AIM

- To audit the prescription of preadmission eye drops (PED)
- To identify any common causes for missed prescriptions
- To implement improvement measures to improve rates of prescription

METHOD

Quality improvement project (QIP) involving closed loop audits, completed between June – July 2022, at a district general hospital.

Data source: 'Escript' pharmacy software. Inclusion and exclusion criteria as per Figure 1. Data collected on Wednesdays, to reduce confounding errors and ensure adequate staffing. Data recorded and analysed using Microsoft Excel.

REFERENCES

1. SIGN. Glaucoma referral and safe discharge (SIGN 144). Published Mar 2015. Page 1. 2. Lord SR, Smith ST, Menant JC. Vision and falls in older people: risk factors and intervention strategies. Clin Geriatr Med. 2010 Nov;26(4):569-81. 3. Narayanan S, Redfern RL, Miller WL, Nichols KK, McDermott AM. Dry eye disease and microbial keratitis: is there a connection? Ocul Surf. 2013 Apr;11(2):75-92.

IMPROVEMENT

Creating awareness of Audit 1 results and impact on patients via:

- Reminding acute medical team
- Pharmacy reconciliation and stewarding
- Emails
- Department meetings
- Teaching sessions

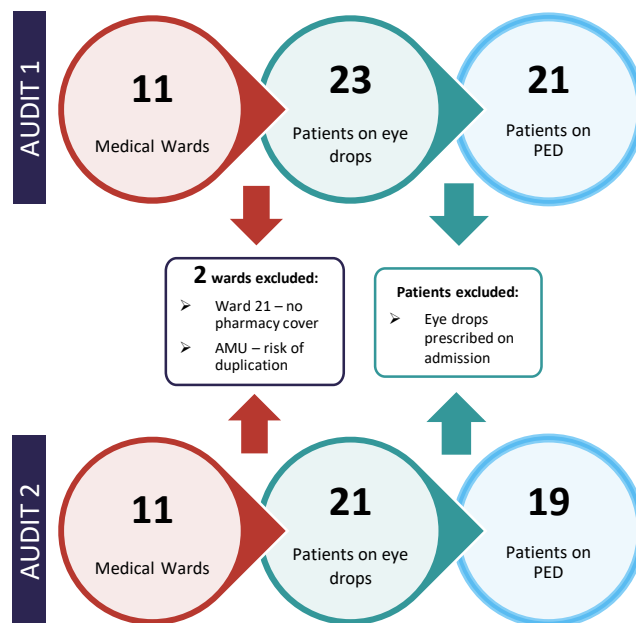


Figure 1.

RESULT

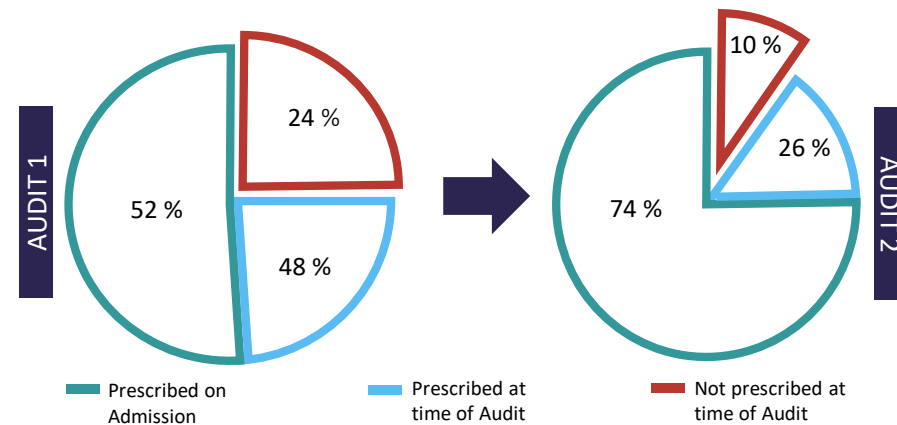


Figure 2.

Number of patients included: 214-218. Patients on PED: 9-10%, Glaucoma patients 42-48%, Missed prescription of PED: 26% (prev. 48%), Missed prescription of PED at time of audit: 10% (prev. 24%), Average delay in prescribing: 6 days (prev. 5 days) across 2 wards (prev. 5 wards).

CONCLUSION

Missed prescriptions can have a substantial impact on patients' care and their long-term vision. Therefore, decreasing rates of missed prescription is crucial. This QIP outlines effective strategies to improve prescription rates of PEDs.