

Preoperative prescribing at Victoria Hospital Kirkcaldy, Fife



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Introduction

Preoperative prescribing of both paracetamol and ibuprofen is recommended by NICE for the management of postoperative pain in all elective patients in whom there is no contraindication [1].

The benefits of preoperative prescribing of these medications include improved post-operative pain relief, reduced costs and reduced plastic use when compared intra-operative IV alternatives.

Aim

Our aim was to re-audit the current rates of pre-operative prescribing and to determine the need for ongoing interventions/PDSA cycles.

Method

We collected data on patients undergoing elective procedures between 29/9/22-6/10/22. Data was collected by recovery nurses using proformas. The project re-audited previous PDSA cycles which involved: Cycle 1- Information poster, Cycle 2 Tickbox column on patient white board prompting nurses that preoperative meds have been prescribed, Cycle 3 Departmental education (Table 1).

Results

The re-audit demonstrated a prescription rate of 65% for paracetamol and 23% for ibuprofen. 41% of those prescribed paracetamol and 33% of those prescribed ibuprofen received their medication. Unfortunately, this showed a decline from previous audit cycles.

Discussion

Reasons for the poor prescription reported by junior anaesthetists included forgetting to prescribe the medication and concern regarding whether consultants would want pre-meds prescribed. Reasons for lack of administration reported by nurses included being unaware of the prescription and lack of white board prompt.

As a result of our findings, we have implemented the following changes:

- 1. New information poster-** Displayed in each bedspace reminding anaesthetists and nurses of the need for prescription and administration of pre-operative medications.
- 2. Consultant consensus-** Consultant meeting confirmed that consultants are happy for all elective patients to receive paracetamol and ibuprofen unless clear contraindication.
- 3. Departmental teaching-** Presentation of our findings and reinforcement of the need for preoperative prescribing.

Plan

We aim to repeat our data collection following the changes we have implemented. In the future we will consider implementing a 'Pharmacy box' to allow anaesthetists to prescribe and administer medications to patients at preoperative assessment.

	Paracetamol		Ibuprofen	
	Prescription rate (%)	Administration rate (%)	Prescription rate (%)	Administration rate (%)
Baseline	64.5	20	41	0
Cycle 1	100	0.07	50	0
Cycle 2	100	23.8	57	0
Cycle 3	70	57.1	20	50
Re-Audit	65	41	23	33

Table 1: Rates of preoperative prescribing and administration

References:

'Peri-operative analgesia', National institute for Clinical Excellence: <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/treatment-summaries/peri-operative-analgesia/>