

Introduction of an Australian First Multidisciplinary Approach to the Initiation of Direct Acting Antivirals Involving Pharmacist Medication Reviews



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BACKGROUND

With the advent of the new Direct Acting Antivirals (DAAs), development of the new hepatology service at Logan Hospital, and the Australian consensus statement in 2016 for the management of hepatitis C it was determined that a multidisciplinary approach to patient care was imperative. The introduction of an Australian first pharmacist led medication review process prior to initiation of DAAs was introduced to proactively identify drug-drug and drug-patient interactions that may impair hepatitis C treatment effectiveness. Drug interactions may reduce DAA concentrations resulting in reduced cure rates, loss of tax payer funded therapy, reduced patient & prescriber confidence in efficacy of therapy, and possibility of increased viral resistance. This poster explains the development and implementation of this multidisciplinary approach to benefit patient outcomes and improve relationships via liaison with local community pharmacies and general practitioners.

METHOD

1. Initial discussion occurred between the hepatology and pharmacy services to review gaps in service provision and how to address this need.
2. Activity Based Funding (ABF) arrangements were utilised to enable self-funded service delivery.
3. Establishment of a referral pathway from the hepatology clinic to the pharmacist was developed to enable a pharmacist led medication review process to commence inclusive of the patient's community pharmacy and general practitioner.
4. Provision of a medication review report with recommendations to the treating clinicians to enable patient initiation on direct acting antivirals.
5. Provision of a typed medication record to the patient outlining treatment commencement date, duration of therapy, and changes to current therapy.
6. Provision of education program to local community pharmacies to ensure continuity of care for patients through use of Section 85 prescriptions.

CONCLUSION

The successful implementation of the multidisciplinary approach to the initiation of Hepatitis C treatment at Logan Hospital has resulted in improved relationships between hospital and community providers, improved documentation of medication changes for patients and prescribers, smooth and timely initiation of treatments for patients with Hepatitis C and proactive identification of drug interactions prior to therapy initiation.

"We recommend working with an experienced pharmacist to confirm the safety of concomitant medications before starting DAA regimens. Patients should be advised to seek advice before starting any new medication during DAA therapy."
Australian recommendations for the management of hepatitis C virus infection: a consensus statement 2016

