Clinical quality

GET IT ON TIME: AN AUDIT CYCLE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PARKINSON’S DISEASE AT RUSSELS HALL HOSPITAL, DUDLEY GROUP OF HOSPITALS

B. Edge, L. Dolan, S. Honap, A. Waldron, S. Duja
Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Group of Hospitals

Evidence-base: Parkinson’s disease is a progressive neurological condition resulting from degeneration of the basal ganglia and subsequent lack of dopamine availability. One in three people with Parkinson’s disease are admitted to hospital each year with patients often on a complex medication regime. In 2010 the National Patient Safety Agency listed Parkinson’s medications as ‘critical medicines’ meaning that omission or delay was a patient safety incident.

An audit was carried out at Russells Hall Hospital in October 2012 of 34 patients with Parkinson’s disease. 55.8% of patients had medications accurately recorded on admission, with only 8.8% having specific times recorded. 12% received all of their Parkinson’s medications on time with patients missing an average of 7.6 drugs. A staff survey showed that from a list of drugs containing eight Parkinson’s medications, an average of only 4.5 were recognised.

Change strategies: A hospital campaign was launched involving pharmacy, nurses and managers in promoting the importance of Parkinson’s disease. Notices on the intranet, promotional posters and ‘get it on time stickers’ were used. A Parkinson’s Disease nurse was appointed and educational sessions were carried out.

Change effects: A re-audit done in February 2014 showed that 96.7% had a medication regime accurately recorded on admission with 35.5% having specific times recorded. 38% of patients had all of their medications administered on time with patients missing an average of 5.1 drugs. 93.5% of patients were reviewed by the Parkinson’s nurse during admission and 71.7% of drug cards used had a ‘Get it on Time’ sticker. Staff members were able to identify an average of 6.6 Parkinson’s medications from a list containing eight.

Conclusion: Marked improvement has been seen in medicine management of Parkinson’s following the changes implemented. Recommendations have been made for further improvement which will require further audit in the future.