



North West London Cardiac Network

Improvement story on Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust Harefield Hospital

Introduction of Anti-platelet Cards

Improvement Headline	Introduction of Anti-platelet cards
Description of problem	Dual anti-platelet therapy is an essential part of post PCI management to prevent sub-acute thrombosis. The North West London Cardiac Network guidelines are that patients receive Aspirin and Clopidogrel for 1 month following insertion of a bare metal stent and 1 year following insertion of a drug-eluting stent. It is therefore important that patients receive these drugs for the correct period of time.
Action – what we did	<p>To ensure that patients receive Aspirin and Clopidogrel for the correct period of time anti-platelet cards were introduced at Harefield Hospital at the beginning of August 2006. These were developed with the support of Sanofi-Aventis who arranged for the cards to be printed. Two cards were developed, one for bare metal stents and the other for drug-eluting stents. The cards are colour coded to facilitate easy recognition of which stent the patient has. Cards are given to patients either by the ward nurse caring for the patient, or by the Nurse Consultant/Clinical Cardiology Nurse when they see the patient pre-discharge the day after the procedure. The ward pharmacist checks that the patient has a card when she counsels them about their drugs and will give out the card if the patient does not already have one. The person who gives out the card must document in the medical or nursing notes that the card has been given. Patients are asked to carry the card with them at all times and to show it to anyone who asks about their medication.</p> <p>A prospective audit of the use of the cards was carried out with the first report written after 3 months. The Nurse Consultant and Clinical Cardiology Nurses completed an audit form in the OPD for each patient attending the post</p>

	PCI clinic one month after their procedure. The audit commenced at the beginning of September 2006 and the data was analysed to the end of November 2006.
What was achieved	<p>90 patients were reviewed in the Post PCI clinic one month following their procedure between September 1, 2006 and November 30, 2006.</p> <p>In 63 cases (70%) the length of time that dual anti-platelet therapy should be continued was documented in the procedural notes. This was not stated in 26 cases (28.9%) and was not entered onto the audit form in 1 case (0.01%).</p> <p>There was documented evidence that the patient had been given an anti-platelet card in either the medical or nursing notes in 75 cases (83.3%) and not in 15 cases (16.7%).</p> <p>72 patients (80%) had the anti-platelet card with them at the outpatient visit. 14 patients did not have the card (15.6%) and this was not documented on the audit in 5 cases (4.4%).</p> <p>The majority of patients received the anti-platelet cards prior to discharge and most were carrying them with them when they were reviewed in the out patient clinic. If patients who said they had left their card at home are included, 87.8% of patients received the card.</p>
Describe how this improvement benefits patients/ carers	The anti-platelet cards have hopefully increased the patient's knowledge of their drug therapy and given them additional control and involvement in their medication. Ensuring drugs are given for the correct period of time and not stopped inappropriately will potentially decrease the incidence of sub-acute stent thrombosis.
Describe how this improvement benefits the organisation	The introduction of the cards has increased the nurse's knowledge of the stents used and length of dual anti-platelet therapy required. Ensuring patients receive drugs for the correct period of time will also hopefully reduce the incidence of sub-acute stent thrombosis.
How many patients has this impacted on to date	90 patients have been followed up in the clinic but this is only a small percentage of the patients who undergo PCI at Harefield. Patients treated by visiting consultants and private patients are all given cards but are followed up in other clinics. It is therefore difficult to measure the total number involved.
How many patients will this impact on in a year	Approximately 1500 patients undergo PCI at Harefield per year.
How many patients	The problem was identified through discussion with

were involved in identifying the problem or solution	colleagues and through the literature. The solution was determined through discussion with the consultants, nursing staff, pharmacy and Sanoffi-Aventis. Consultation with patients would not have been appropriate.
Next Steps:	The card is being used at some other NW London Acute Trusts and the Network is supporting roll-out across all relevant organisations to enable the benefit to be spread across a wider audience.
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