Second national audit of febrile neutropenia management in children and young people with cancer

CCLG Supportive Care Group

Audit co-ordinators:

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Background

In September 2012, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a guideline (CG151) entitled ‘Neutropenic sepsis: prevention and management of neutropenic sepsis in cancer patients.’ The aim of the guideline is to ‘improve outcomes by providing evidence-based recommendations on the prevention, identification and management of this life-threatening complication of cancer treatment’ for children, young people and adults.

Audits of febrile neutropenia (FN) practice in paediatric oncology centres prior to the publication of the NICE guidance have demonstrated variation in definitions for paediatric FN and its management. Fewer than half of oncology centres use risk stratification to safely reduce the intensity and/or duration of therapy required in specific groups. The adoption of a national policy on neutropenic sepsis management based on the best available evidence of clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness requires local implementation but should improve outcomes.

We audited this in 2015 and showed a range of interesting findings, which are available as a full report from the CCLG (or in the Arch Dis Child http://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2016/02/17/archdischild-2015-310294.short)

We wish to re-audit this in 2016.

Aims

The primary aim of this audit is to measure compliance to NICE CG151 in the management of FN in children and young adults nationally both in primary treatment centres and shared care centres. The audit standards will be based on the NICE CG151.

The audit is intended to provide local units with data they can use in internal quality improvement activities, as well as benchmarking them against other units in the country.

Methods

The audit will be carried out prospectively over the same 2 week period (27 June & 4 July) across the UK. There are two web-based data collection forms:

a) Centre information: This form should be completed only once per centre. It will collate information on current local practice and the information provision available for families.

https://york.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3E3KKSeOspctCBL

b) Episode information: This form should be completed for each febrile neutropenia episode per patient over the 2 week period.

https://york.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_a5kavxVge7Jbg1
The web-based data collection will not record patient identifiable information. Submitted data will be collated remotely and individuals will not be able to access submitted data.

**Dissemination of results**

The results will be analysed against the NICE recommendation of 100% compliance by Bob Phillips at the University of York, and each centre will receive an individualised report. Overall results will be disseminated via CCLG, and prepared for publication. The NICE shared learning database will be used to share the experience of putting NICE guidance into practice.

**References**