Evidence-based and Cost-effective Prescribing

To identify and promote effective and cost-efficient prescribing for Antipsychotics medications

Overview of the Project
Medication cost is accountable for a significant proportional of the NHS budget, with evidence showing a steady rise over the years. In 2009, 886 million prescriptions were dispensed in England, costing £8.54 billion. The focus of this project is to identify treatments, which are effective, safer and cost-efficient considering individual patient’s factors. As a result, the treatments will improve the service users’ quality of life and represent an effective use of NHS resources. The project management team aims to produce and disseminate a high quality evidence to enable the clinicians to prescribe well-proven medications with known safety and cost profile.

Leadership Challenges
The main challenge was to ‘change the prescribing culture’ as there seems to be some ‘implementation gap’ and the prescribing guidelines and policies are not followed by professionals due to various reasons. The other challenge was to establish two-way communication with various stakeholders and overcome resistance from the stakeholders.

Results
The scientific evidence and prescription cost analysis for prescribing antipsychotic medications was disseminated to the local clinicians, which was well received. The local pharmacy department developed guidance and arranged meetings with prescribers to update them with the available evidence. The project management team aims to evaluate the impact of change, based on clinical outcomes and financial outcomes. The project management team plans to advertise improvement and present the findings at the trust level to consolidate improvement.

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