

Audit of use of the Joint Injection Clinic Template. 14/1/14.

Background.

Three doctors in Bewdley Medical Centre carry out the majority of joint injections within a set clinic. To do this they have ensured the other doctors know that they are acting as “technicians” in this clinic and are not diagnosing orthopaedic issues. A brief history is taken in the clinic as part of the consenting procedure, but this is not as detailed as would be expected in a routine GPP appointment. It is expected that patients attend the clinic purely for an injection and that clinical responsibility remains with the patient’s own GP. This means that documentation of the need for injection needs to be exact and accurate. Including the type of injection and a management plan.

Furthermore following several significant events involving orthopaedic patients and occult cancer it became apparent that a clear documentation of red flag symptoms was essential. This is particularly so in patients attending a clinic for injections.

As a result of these two factors BMC developed a standard that all patients attending the joint injection clinic should have a clear documentation of red flag symptoms and signs and also a clear management plan. This led to the development of a template. 100% of patients attending for an injection should have a clear use of this template in the notes.

Method of audit:

During one clinic all patients were audited for the use of this template. If the template was not used then this counted as a non-compliance against the standard. Even with a clear history in the notes it is deemed that only the template is acceptable in this case. This is to make it easy for the clinic doctor to garner all the facts quickly.

Results:

6 of the 13 patients had a clear management plan via use of the template. This leaves 7/13 who did not have this clear and medico legally correct documentation.

Discussion:

Some of the patients without a template use represent a cohort of patients on a “regular injection” cycle. However now different doctors are doing the clinic this group will also need a clear plan.

This audit will be circulated to all doctors. Also it is suggested that on booking the patients secretaries check for the use of template. If this is not present then they will first forward a request to the doctor who originally referred the patient to add a plan.

This subject will be re audited within 6 months.

Re-audit of joint injection clinic: this was done on 11/7/14

Of the 16 patients seen in the clinic. 9 had a clear use of the template while 7 still did not. This shows no significant improvement from the previous audit. I will send another reminder e mail. I will also consider running a practice meeting on shoulder patients and the risks they entail.

Re Audit in 2016: 22/4/16:

Of the 18 patients seen 12 had the template filled out and 6 did not. I also looked at the number who had been examined by a doctor pre clinic and found that 3 or 4 of the 18 had not this was mostly because they had booked in directly from reception but on one occasion they had seen the doctor.

In this clinic I did not inject 3 patients because it was not indicated. In each of these cases it was either because they had not been examined or because the template had not been filled out and had it been filled out it would probably have triggered an alternative treatment.

In the next few weeks this clinic will be moving to a physio led injection service. It is essential the template is now used.

Conclusion:

Use the template and examine your patient..... otherwise we risk medicolegal issues and also it is wasting our resources.