Insulin Prescription Audit

Nabeel Saeed, Mary Jane Brassill

Department of Diabetes & Endocrinology, South Tipperary General Hospital, Clonmel

BACKGROUND

Insulin is a life saving drug but can be life threatening if not prescribed properly. We therefore undertook an audit of insulin prescription in South Tipperary General Hospital, Clonmel.

AIMS

Three prescribing practices were audited in all medical and surgical patients admitted to South Tipperary General Hospital with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

1.-The prescription of insulin on insulin prescription sheets (as per hospital policy) or drug kardex.

2.-The adjustment of insulin doses on insulin prescription sheets as per blood sugar levels.

3.-The prescription of insulin on discharge prescription.

METHODS

A prospective, consecutive audit of insulin prescription was carried out on all medical & surgical patients admitted to STGH with type 1 & type 2 diabetes mellitus in November 2013. The practice was compared with hospital guidelines which are consistent with other hospitals nationally.

RESULTS

Twenty consecutive patients were audited. 65% had insulin charted on insulin prescription sheet, 15% on drug kardex alone and 20% on both.

80% of patients had their insulin dosage corrected as per blood glucose readings on insulin prescription sheet, 10% on both and 10% did not need insulin dosage correction.

60% of patients had insulin prescribed on discharge prescription and 40% did not. The reasons for this were analysed:

- one patient died
- three patients were not given a discharge prescription
- one prescription read “as per letter & drug kardex”
- one remained an inpatient at end of audit
- two patients left against medical advice

CONCLUSION

The re audit showed an improvement in the practice of insulin prescribing and therefore improved patient safety

Reference

Implementation of a dedicated hospital subcutaneous insulin prescription chart: effect of glycaemic control