Use of Paracetamol and Ibuprofen drug charts in PAU: A quality improvement initiative

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- Paracetamol and Ibuprofen are the most commonly used drugs in paediatric assessment units.
- In recent years the dosages advised in BNFC have changed multiple times.
- The change in doses of these drugs in BNFC have made it more complex to prescribe as per age of the child.

Method

- We formulated laminated Ibuprofen and Paracetamol dose charts using recent edition of BNFC online, to be stuck on a fixed accessible area on Paediatric assessment unit (PAU) for easy access to doses of these drugs.
- Dose charts were put up on PAU wall for 15 days.
- 10 Doctors were surveyed with mock prescribing of paracetamol and Ibuprofen.
- The Dose charts were compared to online BNFC and written BNFC as control.
- All doctors participated in both arms.

Results

	Control arm	Intervention arm
Correct Dose Prescription	100%	100%
Average time taken to Prescribe	62.7sec	35.9sec

- All prescriptions in both arms were correct.
- Average time taken to prescribe was nearly double in control arm as compared to intervention arm.
- Longest time taken in intervention arm was 58.2sec, whereas in control arm that was 1min 22sec.

Conclusion

1. The drug charts save time to prescribe commonly used drugs. This does not include the additional time saved from locating BNFC book/logging into online BNFC application, or issues finding these sources.
2. The dose charts are safe to use, if doses directly copied from online BNFC.
3. 100% of the doctors took less time to prescribe by using the drug charts.

Issue: The dose charts need to be updated every year, with new edition of BNFC.