HIV Inpatient Experience

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Introduction:

‘Standards of care for people living with HIV 2013’ provides recommendations for the clinical care of HIV positive patients, including inpatients. According to BHIVA, HIV testing should be considered in all general medical admissions where local prevalence is more than 1000 population and where patients present with clinical indicator diseases. We conducted an audit to describe patterns of service use with particular reference to time to diagnosis of HIV infection, presenting illness, medication, length of in-patient stay and follow up.

Methods:

Data were collected retrospectively from notes of all HIV inpatients from 1st January to 31st December 2014 at Royal Bournemouth Hospital (36 patients). Although 21 patients had single admission, 15 patients had multiple re-admissions. Data was analysed from 44 inpatient episodes.

Results:

Majority (57%) of patients were white British MSM reflecting the demography of the area. 4 patients were newly diagnosed with HIV, of which, 3 (75%) presented with an AIDS defining illness. HIV test was performed in MAU on 2 patients (50%). In the remaining 32 patients, 8 presented with AIDS defining illness. 11% had evidence of drug-drug interactions. 37% had no evidence of HIV Team inpatient review. 25 patients were discharged within 7 days, however, 4 stayed for more than 28 days. Only 41% were seen in HIV Outpatients within 4 weeks after discharge. After admission with AIDS defining diagnosis, all patients were alive at 30 days and 72 % alive at 6 months.

Discussion:

Complex care accounted for a sizeable proportion of our inpatient work. Current BHIVA recommendation of immediate commencement of HAART will significantly reduce disease progression and inpatient admission.

This audit highlights the need for continued effort to raise awareness of HIV testing amongst non-HIV hospital doctors and general practitioners.

Reference:

- 1.BHIVA -Standards of Care for people living with HIV 2013
2. BHIVA -UK National Guidelines for HIV testing 2008