

Behavioural approaches to optimise antibiotic stewardship in hospitals

Summary

Antibiotic stewardship is seen as a key strategy to prevent antibiotic resistance and reduce healthcare associated infections. Our group has recently completed the most comprehensive systematic review to date of 221 intervention studies to improve hospital antibiotic prescribing. The results are clear - we have robust evidence to show that a variety of interventions are effective in reducing unnecessary treatment safely, without increase in mortality. However there are likely further opportunities to enhance the effects of such programs. There is a substantial theoretical and empirical framework in behavioural sciences about how to change behaviour, yet the extent to which current antibiotic stewardship programs have adopted a behavioural approach is uncertain. There is an urgent need to bring together key stakeholders in the delivery of stewardship programmes and research experts in improvement sciences to develop more impactful stewardship programmes. This working group comprising world experts in antibiotic stewardship from UK, Canada, Norway, and Germany in partnership with experts in implementation science and behaviour change interventions aims to address the following:

1. What behaviour change approaches can be recommended now to optimise hospital stewardship programmes?
2. How can hospital stewardship programmes be designed to optimise implementation across countries?
3. What is the research agenda to optimise efficient implementation of hospital antibiotic stewardship programmes worldwide?

Project partners

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