

Improving Adherence to Asplenia Guidelines

The Problem

There was a case in which a patient who was asplenic had not received guideline recommended treatment. Although there was no harm to this patient, the HCA QI Committee felt that guidelines may not be followed by all providers. HCA based its medical record review on the UpToDate and CDC guidelines, and consulted with BIDMC's Infectious Disease specialists to confirm the validity of these recommendations.

Aim

Review medical records of patients who have a diagnosis of asplenia, either through medical illness or surgery, to check if the patient had the following: Pneumococcal vaccine, Hemophilus influenza vaccine, Meningococcal vaccine, annual Influenza vaccine, empiric antibiotic prophylaxis for fever, and discussion regarding wearing a Medical Alert Bracelet. If followed, these recommendations may reduce the risk of overwhelming infection which in this group of patients may have a mortality rate of 50%.

The Team

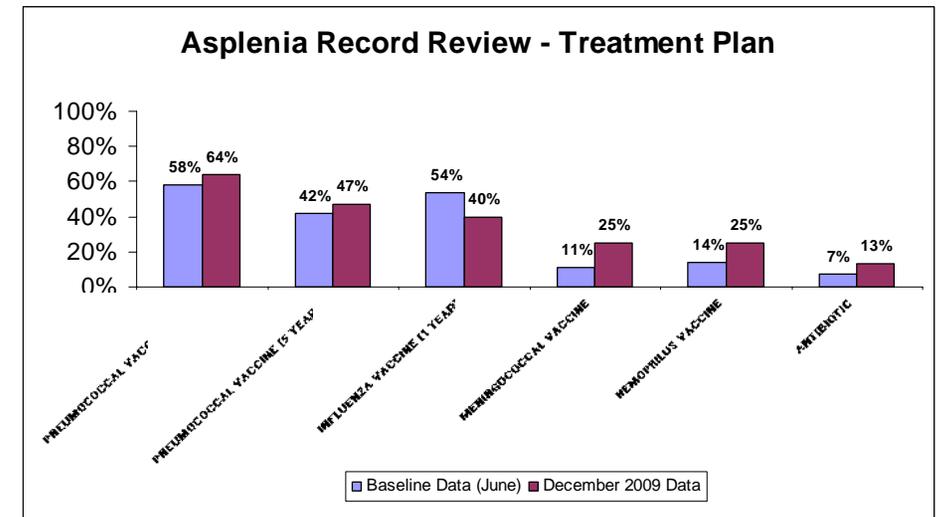
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The Interventions

- Baseline review of electronic medical records.
- All HCA providers were notified of the review and the updated guidelines were disseminated to all.
- Confidential individual scorecards were sent to each primary care provider listing their patients with asplenia. The scorecard showed compliance with recommended guidelines and indicated which items were not found in the record.
- Each provider reported back any corrections, i.e., patient does not fit criteria and therefore should be deleted from the sample.
- For the remaining patients, each record was reviewed by the provider, patients were contacted, and any updated treatment plans were documented in the medical record.
- A second medical record review of these patients occurred several months later to evaluate the efficacy of this approach.

Results/Progress to Date

Moderate improvements were achieved in most areas of care, although there is still room for further improvements.



Lessons Learned

The recent results show that sending individual reports to each HCA provider about their asplenic patients not only brought attention of the UpToDate and CDC recommendations, but also urged the providers to review these recommendations with their patients and to update the medical record as needed.

Next Steps

Continue to monitor medical records to ensure that the recommended guidelines are being followed, and treatment plans are documented in the medical record.

Contact providers who have not followed the recommendations to understand why and to urge them to do so if appropriate.



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