

Complying with UK National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) methotrexate recommendations

KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

“Our pharmacy department uses DAWN RH to successfully help the Trust comply with NPSA recommendations”

WHY DAWN RH?: Kettering General Hospital

Kettering General Hospital has been using DAWN RH for DMARD monitoring since 2009, covering Rheumatology, Gastroenterology and Dermatology patients. The hospital’s pharmacy department uses the DAWN software to help the Acute Trust to comply with National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) recommendations for methotrexate treatment, that is, to ensure continuity of prescribing, monitoring and administration of methotrexate when patients are admitted as inpatients with co-existing conditions.

HOW KETTERING USE DAWN RH

DAWN RH is linked to the patient administration system so that admission and transfer or discharge information is received for rheumatology patients. The software shows the team a list of methotrexate patients currently admitted, including the ward.

Having identified a patient on methotrexate admitted to a ward, the ward pharmacist visits to give a full medication review for that patient, ensuring that bloods are taken and results are reviewed along with past results to allow full assessment of haematological, renal and hepatic function. Ward pharmacists liaise with the rheumatology team when there are concerns about a patient.

BENEFITS OF DAWN RH FOR KETTERING

DAWN facilitates the pharmacist’s role in ‘medicines optimisation’ – the pharmacist ensures methotrexate toxicity isn’t contributing to morbidity and that continued prescribing is appropriate, taking account of other medicines prescribed at the same time. The pharmacist can also raise awareness of safety issues with other ward staff as junior prescribers and nursing staff are not always fully aware of the safety issues around methotrexate or the need to report adverse events to the MHRA via the Yellow Card scheme. This function can be extended to all other DMARDs monitored on DAWN which are also associated with serious adverse reactions.

BENEFITS

Rapid identification of abnormal results

Rapid detection of missed blood tests

Improved adherence to blood testing protocols

Instant notification of admission to Kettering General Hospital

Audit Function – allows safety checks and recommendations for service improvements

In addition to NPSA compliance, DAWN RH has also helped Kettering General Hospital deal with non-attendance issues. DNA rates within the three disciplines were in the range of 5%-27%, placing a large administrative burden on the service in printing and posting out letters. An SMS texting project with DAWN saw text messages sent to consenting patients at 2 weeks before and again at 3 days before their due date resulting in improvements in DNA rates.



For further information about DAWN AC visit www.4s-dawn.com or contact us via telephone +44 (0) 15395 63091, or email sales@4s-dawn.com

Established in 1984, 4S DAWN Clinical Software are trusted by over 300 healthcare organisations across the world to deliver reliable, disease specific solutions that increase patient safety, facilitate productivity gains and improve quality of care.