



Optimising good prescribing practice in Fife CAMHS



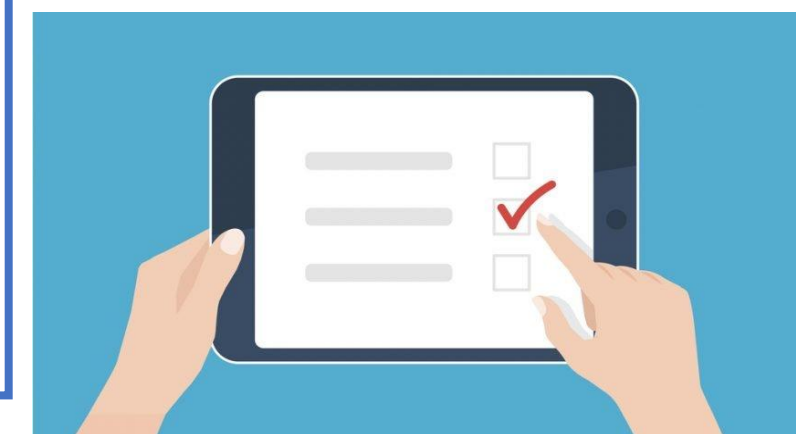
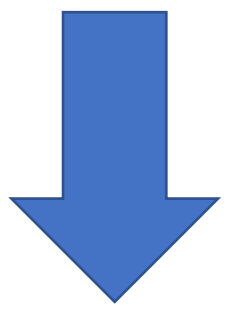
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Background and purpose of audit

Fife CAMHS psychiatrists wanted a clear, concise and standardised method of documenting discussions around consent to medications. An initial audit of documentation related to initiating medicines in CAMHS highlighted scope for improvement. This led to the creation of checklists for all commonly prescribed psychiatric medication in CAMHS based on current GMC guidance “*Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices*”.

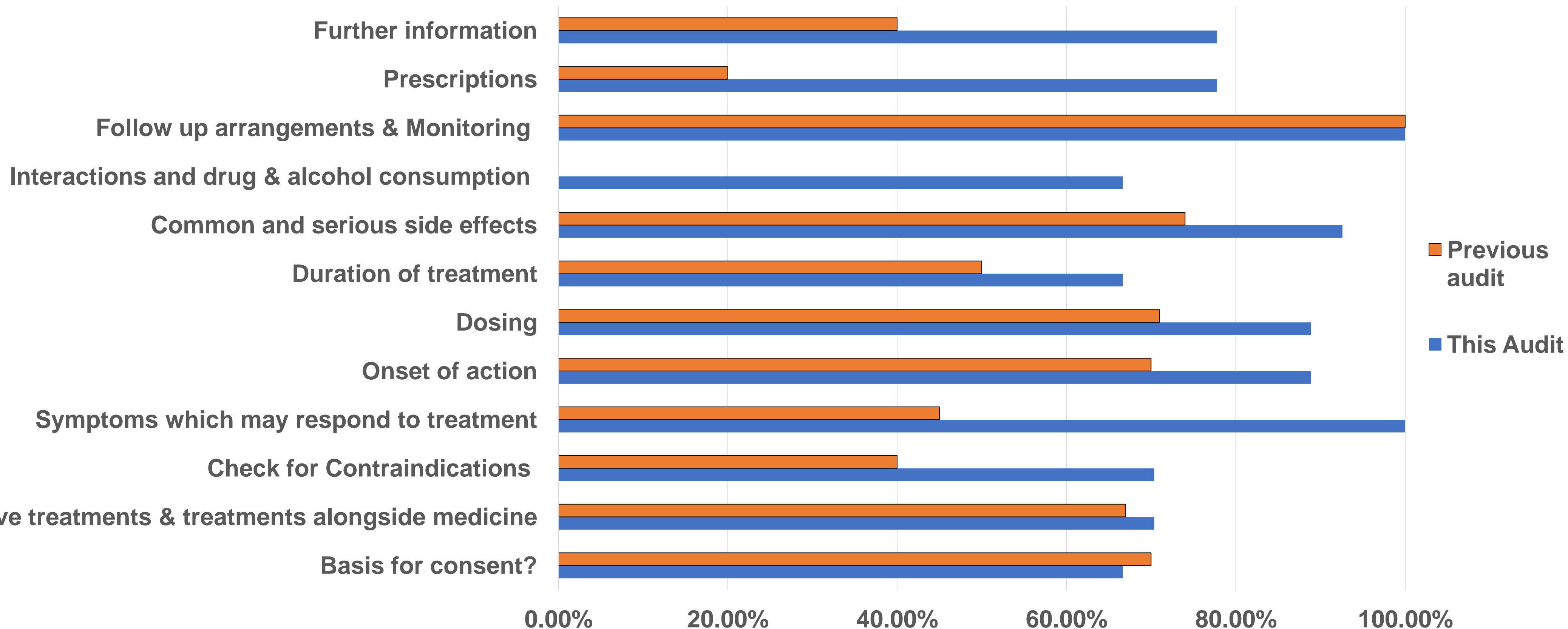
This audit examined the impact of introducing checklists, initially in paper form, then integrated into electronic checklists directly available in patients' electronic notes, assessing how well discussions are documented.



Methodology

The most recent version of GMC guidance was studied to create a list of standards which would be used to compare against current prescribing practice. Each CAMHS psychiatrist was asked to identify their last 5 patients where a new psychiatric medication had been commenced; these patient notes were compared against the standards set. Patient notes were electronic and medication checklists were paper or electronic based.

A quantitative measure of “Yes” or “No” for each standard was used for each patient and resulting data entered into an excel spreadsheet.



Results

A demonstrable improvement from the previous audit is noted in the above bar graph of results; amounting to a 26.7% improvement on average across all standards.

The introduction of medication checklists improved documentation and increased the likelihood that current prescribing practice meets up to date GMC standards. It was concluded that errors in uploading paper checklists were likely a major factor why each standard was not met 100%. Recommendations for change identified include using electronic checklists rather than paper checklists and to ensure checklists are always updated with latest GMC guidance. There is a plan to re-audit following these changes.

