

## CAN THE USE OF A SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED AMINOGLYCOSIDE PRESCRIPTION SHEET REDUCE RISK IN NEONATAL PRACTICE?

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**Background:** Aminoglycosides are commonly prescribed in Neonatal Care but are frequently associated with error. An NPSA directive recommends using a care bundle to reduce error in neonatal Gentamicin prescribing. This includes crossing out boxes on a standard medication prescription and administration record. This can cause confusion and in addition there are no specific areas for documentation of monitoring.

**Methods:** A specifically designed aminoglycoside prescribing sheet was introduced in a level 3 neonatal unit in 2008. Audits looking at appropriate dosing, drug level timing and response to abnormal levels were undertaken before and after introduction. The frequency of reported error prior to, and following introduction, was monitored through incident reporting.

**Results:** Table 1 demonstrates a reduction in aminoglycoside errors of 80% following the introduction of the new prescribing sheet. This compares to a fall of 35% for non- aminoglycoside errors. We compared the rates of fall using a test of differential reduction (Fishers exact test, 2 sided p value), which approached significance ( $p=0.077$ ).

	Nov 07-April 08	May 08-Oct 08	Nov 08- April 09	May 09-Oct 09	Nov 09- April 10	May 10-Oct 10
Total no. of reported non - aminoglycoside drug errors	27	23	10	16	24	15
Total no. of aminoglycoside errors (prescription, administration)	6 (2,4)	2 (1,1)	1 (0,1)	1(0,1)	1 (1,0)	1 (0,1)

[Table 1: Reported drug errors before and after the]

**Conclusion:** An aminoglycoside prescribing sheet should be considered as part of a care bundle designed to reduce risk.