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# WHO-ESGAP workshop

“What influences antibiotic prescribing?”

09.00-09.15

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# There is NO magic bullet

## NO MAGIC BULLETS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF 102 TRIALS OF INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

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Abstract • Résumé

**Objective:** To determine the effectiveness of different types of interventions in improving health professional performance and health outcomes.

**Data sources:** MEDLINE, SCISEARCH, CINAHL and the Research and Development Resource Base in CME were searched for trials of educational interventions in the health care professions published between 1970 and 1993 inclusive.

**Conclusion:** There are no "magic bullets" for improving the quality of health care, but there are a wide range of interventions available that, if used appropriately, could lead to important improvements in professional practice and patient outcomes.



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# HOW TO SELECT AN IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY THAT RESULTS IN DESIRED CHANGE IN YOUR HOSPITAL/STUDY?



# Model for planning change



## Develop a change proposal

- Crucial elements well defined
- Based on evidence and consensus
- Tested in practice, adapted to local needs
- Low complexity, compatible to routines
- Attractive, accessible format
- Credible source

Adapt change proposal

## Identify obstacles to change

- Obstacles related to clinician, social context of care provision, or organisational context
- Obstacles related to stages in change process (dissemination, adoption, implementation, continuation)
- Segmentation of target group

Identify new obstacles

## Link interventions to obstacles

- Dissemination: improve interest and understanding
- Adoption: improve attitude and intention to change
- Implementation: improve actual use
- Continuation: fixed habit

Select new interventions

## Develop a plan

- Combination of strategies
- Define intermediate and long-term targets
- Arrange procedures and tasks
- Set a time schedule

Adapt the plan

## Carry out the plan and evaluate progress

- Carry out different steps and continuously evaluate progress

Targets not achieved

Intermediate targets achieved

Grol.  
BMJ 1997

Tabak et al.  
Am J Prev Med  
2012

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# What influences appropriate prescribing?

- *to be able to design successful interventions one needs:*
  1. *insight in current antibiotic prescribing*
  2. *insight in factors that determine prescribing behaviour*
- *insight can be obtained through*
  1. *qualitative analysis (barrier analysis)*
  2. *quantitative analysis of the variation in prescribing*

Grol & Grimshaw, *Lancet*, 2001

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# Qualitative analysis

- *interviews and focus groups with healthcare professionals*
- *evaluation of barriers that influence prescribing*
  1. *internal (healthcare professional)*
  2. *external (patient, colleagues, organisation, guideline,...)*
- *each guideline recommendation may have it's own pattern!*

Recommendation	Internal barriers Knowledge	Internal barriers Attitude	External barriers
Prescribing an empirical antibiotic regimen adherent to the guidelines	<p>Lack of familiarity (R/S) "I do not know what the exact content of the guideline is."</p> <p>Lack of insight in one's own behaviour (R/S) "I realize now that I actually never follow our hospital guideline recommendations."</p>	<p>Lack of outcome expectancy (R/M) "I think we are afraid of missing things, afraid to take risks with our own patients by prescribing narrow-spectrum therapy even when the guidelines recommend it."</p> <p>Lack of agreement with the guideline -<i>Interpretation of evidence</i> (R/S) "...recent studies show that enterobacteriaceae should be covered by aspiration pneumonia... so penicillin is just not enough..." -<i>Applicability to patient</i> (R/S) "I will deliberately deviate from this guideline for a patient with co-morbidities or one who is severely ill on admission." -<i>Lack of confidence in guideline developer</i> (S) "Microbiologists (who drew up the antibiotic guidelines) have a fundamentally different view than clinicians..."</p> <p>Inertia of current practice, lack of motivation (S) "I have been treating patients with this non-guideline-adherent antibiotic since medical school and it is always successful..."</p>	<p>Guideline factors (R/S) "The antibiotic booklet is unclear, confusing, poorly presented."</p> <p>Social context -<i>Social pressure</i> (R/S) "Everyone feels safe with cefuroxime (broad-spectrum betalactam antibiotic)...colleagues will not quickly criticize you for this choice." "Internists and pulmonologists make different antibiotic choices."</p> <p>Organizational context (S) "You know, you don't see the patient yourself at night; it is often difficult to assess from your bed whether a patient needs broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy..."</p>
Timely initiation of antibiotic therapy	<p>Lack of awareness or insight (S/M) "I assume that antibiotics are always administered immediately, but I am not sure." "Doctors and nurses do not realize how important timely administration of antibiotics is for outcome."</p>	<p>Lack of agreement with guideline -<i>Applicability to patient</i> (R/S) "This rule only applies to a patient with CAP who is severely ill."</p> <p>Lack of control of circumstances (R) "Once a patient is admitted to the ward, I am afraid I cannot control the schedule, I cannot guarantee timely administration."</p>	<p>Guideline factors -<i>Presence of conflicting guidelines</i> (M/S/N) "Nurses take recommendations of getting blood and sputum cultures <i>before</i> first administration of antibiotics very literally, which may cause several hours of delay." -<i>Guideline characteristics</i> (R/S/M/N) "There is no clear recommendation on this subject in our guideline."</p>

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# Quantitative analysis

- *large variation in guideline adherence observed*
- *determinants of variation found at different levels*
  1. *patient (age, co morbidities, ...)*
  2. *health professional (specialty, age, ...)*
  3. *hospital (teaching, services,...)*
- *multilevel logistic regression analysis*



# Community acquired pneumonia

Hospitals	n = 8	n = 59 <sup>a</sup>	P	Professionals	n = 68	SD
Mean number of beds, n (SD)	524 (169)	491(286)	0.74 <sup>b</sup>	Mean age, years	48	8
Teaching hospital, n (%)	4 (50)	27 (46)	0.82 <sup>c</sup>	Gender, % male	84	
Antibiotic committee, n (%)	4 (50)	43 (73)	0.18 <sup>c</sup>	Mean years in practice	21	9
Local antibiotic guidelines, n (%)	8 (100)	56 (95)	0.51 <sup>c</sup>	Specialty professional, % respiratory care physician	53	
Use of national guidelines in composition process of local policies, n (%)	2 (25)	9 (15)	0.52 <sup>c</sup>	Clinical experience, % > 25 CAP patients / year	78	
Routine feedback on pathogen- directed therapy, n (%)	3 (38)	31 (53)	0.43 <sup>c</sup>	Member of local antibiotic committee, %	7	
Quality improvement project in past 5 years, n (%)	6 (75)	29 (49)	0.17 <sup>c</sup>	Special task in quality improvement projects, %	70	
Pharmacist present at ward rounds discussing antibiotic prescription, n (%)	3 (38)	23 (39)	0.92 <sup>c</sup>	Special task in guideline composition, %	32	
Patients	n = 498		SD	Patients	n = 498	SD
Evaluable patients, n (%)	432 (87)			Sodium mean (mmol/l)	137	4
Excluded patients, n (%)	66 (13)			pH, median	7.44	0.6
Male sex, n (%)	251 (58)			Antibiotic therapy within 30 days, n (%)	139 (32)	
Age, median in years	74		15	Admitted at night or weekend, n (%)	210 (49)	
PSI score > 3 (%)	47			Admission to respiratory unit, n (%)	332 (77)	
Co-morbidity score <sup>d</sup> ≥1 (%)	62			Resident involved in the admission procedure, n (%)	230 (53)	
COPD, n (%)	194 (45)					
Chronic Heart failure, n (%)	154 (35)					
Diabetes Mellitus, n (%)	65 (15)					
Oxygen saturation, % mean	92.3		5			
Temperature, °C mean	38.1		1.1			
Pulse (beats per minute), mean	97		21			

	<b>Timely initiation of antibiotic therapy (within 4 hours)</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
→	Low oxygen saturation on admission	1.11 (1.04-1.19) <sup>b</sup>	0.004
	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	0.51 (0.27-0.96)	0.026
	Initiation of antibiotic therapy at the Emergency Department	3.9 (1.96-8.73)	0.001
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>31.3</b>	
	<b>Empirical antibiotics according to national guidelines</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
	Pleural effusion present on admission	0.27 (0.12-0.65)	0.004
	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	2.40 (1.40-4.08)	0.002
→	Recent antibiotic therapy in outpatient setting (< 30 days)	0.46 (0.26-0.80)	0.007
	Presence of an antibiotic committee	0.27 (0.08-0.90)	0.034
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>14.4</b>	
	<b>Adapting dose of antibiotic to renal function</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
	Age (patient)	0.55 (0.39-0.68) <sup>c</sup>	<0.0001
	Heart failure	0.52 (0.28-0.96)	0.038
	Admission to a respiratory care ward	5.13 (2.56-10.23)	<0.0001
	Presence of an antibiotic committee	8.82 (1.03-75.88)	0.048
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>37.4</b>	
	<b>Switching from iv to oral therapy</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
→	Clinical experience of treating physician (no. of years)	0.95 (0.92-0.99)	0.042
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>34.1</b>	
	<b>Streamlining therapy</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
→	Presence of a clinical pharmacist at ward meetings	0.24 (0.08-0.72)	0.012
→	Teaching Hospital	4.14 (1.44-11.96)	0.010
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>27.9</b>	
	<b>Taking 2 blood samples for culture</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
	Temperature on admission (> 37.5°C or < 36.0°C)	7.75 (4.53-13.23)	<0.0001
	Low sodium concentration on admission	1.10 (1.03-1.16) <sup>d</sup>	0.003
→	Treating physician other than pulmonologist	2.82 (1.30-6.13)	0.009
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>27.6</b>	
	<b>Obtaining sputum samples for Gram stain &amp; culture</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>	<b>P</b>
	Male sex (patient)	2.15 (1.29-3.56)	.003
	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	1.95 (1.16-3.26)	.012
	Recent antibiotic therapy in outpatient setting (< 30 days)	2.16 (1.28-3.64)	.004
	Admission to a respiratory care ward	2.35 (1.18-4.59)	.017
	<b>Explained variance (%)</b>	<b>13.9</b>	

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# Quantitative analysis

- *can guide choice of an effective intervention strategy*
  - *guideline adherence best in sicker patients*
  - *antibiotic choice strongly determined by recent (<30 days) antibiotic use*
  - *respiratory physicians poor in ordering blood cultures*
- *multifaceted, targeted intervention strategy*

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# The HOW?

*in antibiotic stewardship*

- *linking barriers/determinants to effective interventions*
  - *intervention mapping*
  - *based on literature for change theories (EPOC)*
- *multifaceted, specific intervention strategy*

Bartolomew, Health Education Behaviour 1998, [http:// EPOC.cochrane.org](http://EPOC.cochrane.org)

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# The HOW?

*in antibiotic stewardship*

*Link a barrier to an effective intervention*

- *lack of knowledge ———> education*
- *routine behaviour ———> reminders*
- *lack of awareness ———> feedback*

Bartolomew, Health Education Behaviour 1998,  
Ivers, Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2012

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# The HOW?

*in antibiotic stewardship*

*Tailor the intervention using behavioural change theories*

*lack of awareness -> (audit and) feedback*

*Feedback should be*

- *delivered in written and verbal form*
- *by a colleague or supervisor*
- *including explicit targets and an action plan*

Ivers, Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2012

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# Discussion дискусија