A SIMPLE TOOL TO INCREASE COMPLIANCE IN ANTIBIOTICS TREATMENT OF CHILDREN

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Objective

To develop, implement and evaluate a simple tool to support the parent’s task of giving antibiotics to children.

Methods

The tool consisted of a simple handout. This handout was initially developed by 2 pharmacists and 3 pharmacoeconomists and pilot tested at both participating pharmacies. Following this, the final handout was created. The front of the handout contained a check-box for each dispensing of the antibiotic to be filled out with stickers that accompanied the handout. The backside contained practical advice for the parents.

The handout was offered to all parents of children 0-10 years who were buying antibiotics, at two pharmacies in Denmark in the period of March – May 2013. A follow-up questionnaire via e-mail was sent 10 days after the customer had been at the pharmacy.

Results

180 parents were offered the handout, which 93% accepted. 98 persons responded to the follow-up e-mail, of which 85 (87%) reported using the handout as part of the treatment.

The majority of the participating children were aged 0-4 years. When asked if the handout made it easier to administrer the antibiotics, the responses were overwhelmingly positive (see below).

Of the 85 who reported use of the handout 81 (95%) would use it again.

The free-text comments provided were almost all uniformly positive. Some excerpts can be seen below: “..works super well..”, “..good idea, thanks for the help..”, “..focus is on the form, not the bad tasting medicine..”, “..my son loved it, and it made it easier..”, “..almost a sport to take the medicine and get a smiley to put on the form..”.

The pharmacy staff also described the use of the handout as a positive experience.

Conclusion

The handout was found to be a useful tool to increase compliance in antibiotics treatment by both patients and pharmacy staff.