

3A(1a)

Analysis of Prescribing Data

Using SPA level 2 data, or individualised feedback from an appropriate source (e.g. practice pharmacist), complete the following proforma.

Data source:

- SPA level 2 data
- Individualised feedback (please specify).....

Therapeutic grouping (BNF classification):

LAXATIVES

List of top four drugs used:

1. SENNA
2. LACTULOSE
3. ISPAGHULA HUSK
4. MOVICOL

Comment on the range and number of drugs used in this therapeutic group:

I seem to use all types of laxatives. I think this is probably appropriate given the different types of patients and causes of constipation. Movicol is non generic – but I don't know the generic name!

The biggest disappointment is that lactulose is my second choice of laxative. This surprises me as I am unaware of using it by choice. This data however came from PRISMs and may include other doctors in the practice. I am also aware that we used to prescribe lactulose by choice so perhaps some of these have been on repeat prescription for some time.

Comment on the **clinical effectiveness** of the various drugs used:

I am unaware of any actual guidelines such as SIGN for use of laxatives and in general prefer bulk forming laxatives as the action is more natural. I work in a fairly deprived area and I guess a low fibre (and vitamin) diet predominates.

I would imagine that stimulant laxatives work equally well as bulk laxatives – indeed senna seems to be my first choice.

Comment on the **cost effectiveness** of the various drugs used:

Senna and ispaghula husk are cheap when generically prescribed.

Lactulose is expensive and needs large daily doses.

Movicol is also expensive and I'm not sure why this is my number 4 choice.

Learning points or discussion points identified:

I need to consider if there is a local guideline that I can follow to rationalise my prescribing in this group.

Where appropriate, any changes made or action taken:

I will reduce my prescribing of lactulose. Practice pharmacist has agreed to meet with me again in 6 months to review this. ? also to help develop a policy on when to use lactulose. I will find out how MOVICOL works and only use it if there is a logical need.

Signed.......... Date..... 12/07/03.....

Name..... David Adams.....