Delivering Antimicrobial Stewardship Education during the Covid-19 pandemic

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Background

• The Cork University Maternity Hospital Antimicrobial Guideline review was completed as Covid-19 emerged.
• Up-to-date antimicrobial guidelines are a core antimicrobial stewardship intervention for the safe and appropriate use of antimicrobials in hospitals.
• Aims:
  – Successfully roll out the new guidelines.
  – Provide up-to-date guideline availability for service users.
  – Adequately supporting staff with change during a stressful pandemic period.
  – Respect the constraints of social distancing requirements.
Methods

• “Bite-sized” educational videos were developed for medical and midwifery/nursing staff.
• These included Summary of Update to Adult Guidelines, Pyrexia in Labour Clinical Guideline, and Neonatal Vancomycin.
• The videos were disseminated via messenger services including Whatapp™.
• Additionally videos were uploaded to the hospital’s Youtube™ channel and a link sent to staff via email.

[link: https://youtu.be/Cw9fZ1AAFbk]
Results

• The updated Antimicrobial Guidelines were successfully rolled out delivering the most up-to-date information on the safe and appropriate use of antimicrobials for service users.

• Staff reported themes included:
  a) Accessibility: Receiving the videos on their phone via messenger services meant staff could access the information without access to a computer, often in use on busy wards.
  b) Convenience: Access to content on demand, rather than attending a session at a set time, was more convenient during the busy workday.
  c) Format: The video format allowed staff to digest the update more quickly and thoroughly than a written format. Staff reported being more likely to watch a video than read an email due to email fatigue during Covid-19.
‘was just watching your online presentation. Well done it certainly is a better way of catching our attention’
email from Consultant Neonatologist.

Limitations and Conclusion

• Limitations: Did not collect number of views as distributed through messaging groups.

• Conclusion: Short ‘bite-sized’ educational videos, provided on a variety of platforms, are a useful tool to provide information to busy staff during the Covid-19 period and beyond.