Medication Administration to Aged Care patients with Dysphagia

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Concord Hospital
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Background

• Case study – Mr JW.
Movicol

Is used to relieve constipation

Is often used to treat constipation in elderly patients as movicol has few side effects compared with other laxatives

Is dosed 1 sachet must be mixed in 125ml of water to have intended effect
Dysphagia in the Elderly

Prevalence in acute hospitals is 33.3% (Steele et al., 1997)

80% have dysphagia in acute stage of stroke (Logemann, 1998)

70 – 90% of older people have some degree of swallow dysfunction (Kelly et al., 2010)
Medication administration

- Paucity of data in this area
- Research has largely focused on mental health or residential aged care settings
- Medication administration errors in patients with dysphagia are twice as frequent compared with those patients without dysphagia (Kelly 2009)
- Lack of knowledge in area
- No clear pathways or systems (Kelly 2010)
Exploration of current practice

• No guideline outlining how to administer movicol to patients with dysphagia on thickened fluids

• Inconsistencies in practice across the hospital and area
Method

- Survey
- Workshopped practical methods to modify movicol
- Development of policy; approved by nursing committee and uploaded onto intranet
- Education package to aged care NS
- MAR order
- 3 month trial of policy
- Review compliance and effectiveness
Preliminary results

3 month trial
Good compliance
Increased knowledge and confidence
Future directions

• Evaluation of effectiveness of policy

• Better understanding of contributing factors leading to adverse events

• Improve communication processes

• Raising awareness
Questions
Acknowledgements

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References


• Australian Medicines Handbook, 2012