

Antibiotic prescriptions reduced by 29% at UK GP practice using Suresign Finecare CRP test.

The Arthur Medical Practice, Horsley Woodhouse, Derby were, in line with Government initiatives, looking for ways to reduce their level of antibiotic prescribing and CRP testing of patients presenting with lower respiratory infections was a key area they wished to explore.

They wanted to evaluate a CRP test in surgery to assess:

The acceptability of point of care CRP testing in GP clinical practice.

The effect on antibiotic prescribing of performing CRP tests on patients attending clinic with the symptoms of bacterial or viral Lower Respiratory Tract Infections.

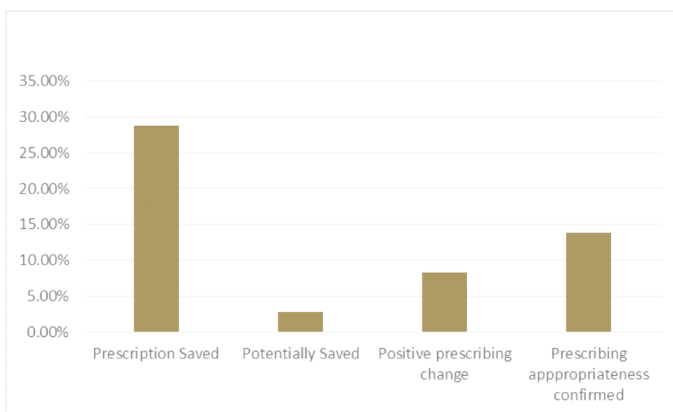
In order to do this the clinic manager, Mr John Claughton (now retired), and GP Dr Kathryn Pontin chose the Finecare FIA reader and Finecare CRP test (available from CIGA Healthcare Ltd), based on its technical ability and ease of use.

Dr Pontin developed a pathway based on NICE CG191 to be used with patients presenting with LRTI's in addition to which a questionnaire was developed which was to be completed pre CRP testing by the consulting clinician.

In total five different clinicians (GP's and Practice Nurses) were involved in the patient consultations and CRP testing in this study.

Results Obtained:

In total 36 CRP tests were performed during the period 10th March 16 to 6th June 16, numbers were limited due to the ending of the LRTI season.



Graph showing changes to prescription post CRP vs expected prescription

Ease of use: Clinicians found the test to be either very or fairly convenient in 94% of cases.

The average time to result including sampling: 4.7 minutes.

Storage: The practice found the CRP test kits long shelf life and room temperature storage to be a significant bonus.

Conclusion

This evaluation met all the required evaluation criteria of the Arthur medical practice:

- Finecare CRP testing reduced antibiotic prescribing by 29% in patients presenting with Lower Respiratory Tract Infections.
- The Finecare CRP 3 minute test time fitted very well within the time of a single consultation.
- The Finecare CRP test and reader were very simple to use.

Dr Pontin commented:

"The Finecare reader was a very welcome addition to the Arthur Medical Centre. My colleagues and I found it easy to carry out point of care CRP testing, and it was encouraging to see the positive impact it had on reducing our antibiotic prescribing for Lower Respiratory Tract Infections."



Dr Kathryn Pontin performing a CRP test on the Finecare Reader.

In addition due to its compact nature the Finecare Reader fitted very well within a central testing area in the surgery which allowed the surgery clinicians to share the one reader.

On average 40% of antibiotic scripts in the autumn/winter period are for Lower Respiratory Tract Infections, a reduction of 29% on these scripts would show a significant national saving on antibiotics of 12% during this period if all GP practices were to follow the Arthur Medical Practice lead.

In light of this and due to the obvious success of the evaluation the Arthur Medical Practice plan to continue CRP testing with the Finecare CRP Test and Reader when the new Lower Respiratory Tract Infection autumn season begins.

For further information please contact: sales@cigahealthcare.com

PATIENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Patient ID: _____ Date seen: _____

- Without CRP testing would you have given this patient antibiotics based on today's clinical encounter?
- After CRP testing did you give this patient antibiotics?
- How did you find the use of the Finecare CRP testing during your consultation?
- Did the patient expect to be given antibiotics pre CRP test?