

Timing it Right for Parkinson's Disease Patients in Ayrshire and Arran

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Aim and Objectives

To ensure that Parkinson's Disease patients admitted to hospital receive their medication at the "*Right Time*" by:

- Empowering patients to allow them to take greater control of their personal care while in hospital
- Educating healthcare professionals, increasing awareness of the needs of this group of patients
- Improving the pharmaceutical care of patients with Parkinson's Disease - in all care settings



Why is this important?

The main treatment for Parkinson's is medication and there are specific drugs which work by replacing or mimicking the actions of dopamine, the chemical that is depleted in the brain.

If a person with Parkinson's is unable to take their prescribed medication at the right time, the balance of chemicals in their brains can be severely disrupted – leading to the symptoms of the condition becoming uncontrolled.

Because people with Parkinson's and their families are so aware of the importance of taking medication on time, their drug regime is easily managed when they are at home or at work. However, if they are admitted to hospital, it can be difficult to maintain the timing of their drugs

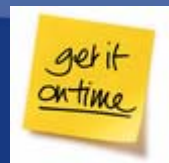


The Scottish Approach - Integrated Health



Involvement of Patients and Health Care Professionals Primary Secondary and Social Care

- Hospital Nursing / Medical / Pharmacy / AHP's
- Community Pharmacists and Pharmacy Support Staff
- General Practitioners
- Social Services / Local Authorities / Community Care
- Patient Involvement through local branch of Parkinson Disease Society



Future Plans



- To reinforce the “Time it Right” message on an annual basis coinciding with the National Parkinson Disease Awareness Week.
- To compare baseline data with post campaign data, using information from the hospital electronic prescribing system, to establish the impact, if any, of this project.



Patient Benefits



“I recently was a patient in hospital. As I have Parkinson Disease I must take my medication exactly on time or suffer the consequences of shaking badly, rigidity and poor mobility.

It is not always possible for nursing staff to dispense medication at that time as they have other patients to look after.

I was greatly relieved to hear that arrangements had been made to allow me to self medicate. My stay was made a lot less stressful.

I hope this can be made available (when possible) to other patients with Parkinson’s Disease. My grateful thanks to all involved for their help and understanding”



Conclusion

- Very simple project – originating from patient complaints
- On the surface - a hospital only issue
- Scottish Healthcare – organised around the provision of integrated patient care - facilitated a single system approach to improving the pharmaceutical care of patients with Parkinson's Disease
- Staff empowered and encouraged to work out with organisational boundaries
- Some subjective signs of improvement for patients
- Small changes can have a big impact for patients and their families

