

Library and Information Services

Our healthcare information success stories

<p>Report of a case in which information provision has influenced patient care, either individually or through the development of a care pathway.</p>	
<p>Case study</p>	<p>Literature search on the use of fidaxomicin for prophylaxis of Clostridium difficile infection.</p>
<p>Interviewee</p>	<p>Epsom and St Helier Consultant Medical Microbiologist 19 Feb 2018</p>
<p>Summary of problem or reason for enquiry</p>	<p>A colleague consultant (gastroenterologist) and I were intending to make a formal 'one-off drug application' to use an existing drug, fidaxomicin, for an unlicensed indication: <i>prophylaxis</i> of Clostridium difficile infection rather than <i>treatment</i>, for a patient suffering considerable morbidity with recurrent attacks of this infection. Our patient, unusually, could not tolerate a more conventional prophylactic antibiotic for this infection. Our proposal had added difficulties in that it was for prolonged prophylaxis (3 months) and it would be expensive. We had never used the drug this way before and we were only aware of one small trial which supported this indication.</p>
<p>Information found</p>	<p>We needed a very thorough literature search from the library and indeed it provided several useful references. It was also provided very quickly which was important as we were hoping to start the patient on the drug imminently.</p>
<p>Quotations demonstrating how patient care changed as a result of the information provided</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our proposal was ultimately successful and the drug so far appears to be having the desired effect. 2. The benefit to the patient concerned cannot be understated as she was at significant risk of not surviving any subsequent attack of this infection. 3. In the long term we may have also saved money in preventing hospital admission of the patient.