

Title: Interventions to improve antimicrobial stewardship for older people in care homes

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Abstract:

Background Inappropriate antimicrobial prescribing amongst older people in care homes has been shown to result in serious adverse drug events, Clostridium difficile colonisation, and antimicrobial resistance. Interventions to improve antimicrobial stewardship in care homes have been reported through clinical trials, but the overall effect remains unclear. Methods Inclusion criteria for the review were randomised controlled trials, targeting care home residents and healthcare professionals, providing interventions to improve antimicrobial prescribing compared to usual care or other interventions. Non-English publications were excluded. Eleven electronic databases and 5 trial registries were searched for studies published before 2 October 2017. Results Five of 8285 records met the inclusion criteria. Studies varied in terms of types of infections, key targets, delivery of interventions, and reported outcomes. Six of 27 outcomes across 5 studies were not previously stated in the method sections. The interventions did not improve adherence to recommended guidelines and total antimicrobial prescribing, but likely decreased the rate of antimicrobial use for infections and total antimicrobial consumption. The interventions had little effect on overall hospital admissions and mortality. The overall quality of evidence was low due to high risk of bias detected amongst studies. Conclusion This review indicated that the included studies had limited effect on improving antimicrobial prescribing and caused no harm to care home residents. However, the quality of evidence was low.