QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

A series of evidence-based drug therapy letters improved prescribing behaviour


Clinical impact ratings GP/FP/Primary care ★★★★★☆

Q Do evidence-based drug therapy letters affect the prescribing behaviour of physicians to newly treated patients?

METHODS

Do evidence-based drug therapy letters affect the prescribing behaviour of physicians to newly treated patients?

A series of 12 evidence-based drug therapy letters changed the prescribing behaviour of physicians for newly treated patients in the desired direction of increasing or decreasing prescriptions.

MAIN RESULTS

The change in new prescriptions of the analysis drug was 1.3 times more likely in the predicted direction in the intervention group than in the control group for the 12 letters combined (weighted relative risk 1.3, 95% CI 1.13 to 1.52). No letter had a statistically significant effect on its own.

CONCLUSION

A series of 12 evidence-based drug therapy letters changed the prescribing behaviour of physicians for newly treated patients in the desired direction of increasing or decreasing prescriptions.