

4.14 An Audit on the Compliance of CXR follow up – Beaumont Hospital

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British Thoracic Society (BTS) Guidelines state that all patients, regardless of admission status to hospital, with a community acquired pneumonia (CAP) should have a follow up chest x-ray (CXR) within 6 weeks, particularly those at a higher risk of underlying malignancy [>50 years old or a smoker]. ¹We describe a retrospective audit of Beaumont Hospital's compliance with BTS guidelines in relation to follow up CXR imaging for patients diagnosed with a radiographically significant community acquired pneumonia. Through HIPE data, we reviewed the records of 50 random patients with a documented diagnosis of "Pneumonia" on their discharge letter from the period of January to March 2022. We confirmed this with their imaging reports. 42% were female, 58% male. Median age of 60.5. 78% were deemed to have a high risk of underlying malignancy. 64% had repeat imaging. Of those who had repeat imaging, 59% had repeat imaging within 6 weeks, 18% in 6-12 weeks and, 23% in greater than 12 weeks. 38% fulfilled the BTS guidelines. With this degree of compliance, detecting other underlying lung pathologies may be delayed. Our plan is to re-audit in 6 months time after completing educational teaching with the NCHD cohort.

References:

1. British Thoracic Society Guidance on Respiratory Follow Up of Patients with a Clinico-Radiological Diagnosis of COVID-19 Pneumonia [Internet]. British Thoracic Society; 2020.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare