

8.13 Compliance with COVID-19 protocols

Kieran Skehan, Emma Dolan, Lisa Murphy, Elaine Hayes
Our Lady Of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital created local guidelines for management of COVID-19 patients on admission. Our audit assessed compliance with these protocols. The protocol included risk stratifying patients along with recommended investigations and drug prescriptions. Guidelines also encompassed nutritional strategies developed by OLOLH's dieticians.

A prospective review was undertaken over a 2 week period of patients presenting with COVID-19 pneumonia. Investigations reviewed included chest x-ray, arterial blood gas (ABG), C-reactive protein (CRP), procalcitonin and d-dimer. Treatments evaluated comprised of oxygen administration, anticoagulation, steroid use and nutritional supplementation.

Our initial Audit found poor compliance with the protocol. Subsequent interventions involved organized teaching sessions, development of a PDF protocol for phones and an acronym for COVID-19 prescribing was developed and displayed in the Emergency Department. Our interventions led to significant improvements in correct prescribing related to COVID-19, with correct nutritional supplement, steroid and anticoagulation prescribing increasing 58%, 29% and 25% respectively. Rates of ABG and d-dimer also increased by 54.4% and 28% respectively.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare