Title: Identifying areas of improvement in the antibiotic management of uncomplicated pediatric pneumonia in the YNHCH Pediatric Emergency Department

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Background: Pediatric pneumonia is one of the most common infections in childhood and one of the leading causes of hospitalization in Pediatrics. The percentage of pediatric patients who receive evidence-based antibiotic treatment for uncomplicated pneumonia in the pediatric ED is highly variable, however the clinical factors driving these prescribing patterns are not fully understood.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional electronic survey of all pediatric and emergency medicine residents, as well as pediatric emergency medicine fellows, attendings, and APPs assessing the antibiotic prescribing patterns for uncomplicated pediatric pneumonia, the use of antibiograms and guidelines, as well as the factors influencing antibiotic choices.

Results: 56 surveys have been completed to date. 64% (n=35) of the prescribers are using guidelines for pediatric pneumonia about half or less than half the time when prescribing antibiotics for pediatric pneumonia. 37% (n=20) have never used the hospital’s antibiograms to guide their prescribing patterns. 50% (n=52) of the responders did not know where to find the YNHH antibiogram, whereas 39% (n=20) did not know where to find the PDSI/ IDSA guidelines. The most influential factors for choosing an antibiotic were attending’s preference, IDSA guidelines and Uptodate. 69% (n=37) of the responders felt less confident or not confident at all in distinguishing complicated from uncomplicated pneumonia.

Conclusions: The above results are helpful in guiding interventions that could increase the number of patients who receive first-line, evidence-based antibiotic treatment for pediatric pneumonia. These interventions can include promotion and integration of the guidelines and antibiograms and education about proper identification of complicated versus uncomplicated pneumonia.

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