

## **Best in class insulin prescription charts**

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The National Diabetes Inpatient audit (NaDIA) 2013 has exposed insulin related prescription errors in over 20% of patients. Good prescription charts can reduce these.

The Joint British Diabetes Societies for Inpatient care (JBDS) organised a national competition for the 'best in class' insulin prescription chart. The aim was to find safe and effective insulin charts in use and facilitate their availability to the other teams across the UK. A total of 41 trusts submitted their charts. The quality of these charts were judged by an expert panel of independent judges according to predefined criteria based on National Patient Safety Association (NPSA) guidelines 2010 on the safe prescription of insulin.

The charts from Nottingham University Hospitals, East Sussex Healthcare, Worcestershire Royal Hospital and Western Sussex Hospitals were declared winners.

Comments on the strengths of winning charts included –'very practical three page fold-out', 'uncluttered' 'easy to understand', 'inclusion of sc insulin in main drug chart', 'separate charts for the various IV regimens', 'inclusion of pre admission regimen', 'storage advice on chart', 'advice on moving insulin WITH patients and self-administration', 'advise on non return valves for iv insulin infusion' and 'instruction on making up IV infusion.'

Suggestions for improving the charts included 'prescribing by brand name', 'integrated blood glucose monitoring', 'chart for hyperkalaemia', 'colour coding for different charts', 'better guidance on when to start which regimen', 'better reference to units (rather than U) and 'adequate space for monitoring and dose changes.'

The winning charts will be displayed on the poster.