**Runner up:**

**Are junior doctors best prepared to prescribe insulin?**

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**Background**

Although maladministration of insulin has been identified as a never-event by the Department of Health, a National Diabetes Inpatient audit identified significant errors in insulin prescribing. Prescription charts are usually started by junior doctors on patient admission. A recent Foundation Year 1 (F1) induction survey showed F1s did not feel confident in prescribing insulin.

**Aims and Objectives:**

The identification of common errors in prescribing, using National Patient Safety Agency and Department of Health standards

**Methods:**

The audit examined the prescription charts of 40 insulin-dependent diabetic patients admitted between July and November 2011 to Great Western Hospital. The standard set in this audit was 100%. This audit identified more insulin prescribing errors at GWH than another trust, doing the same audit but which had an insulin prescribing section in its drug charts. To avoid dosage errors ‘units’ must be written in full. Significantly, there was compliance of 75% in GWH compared to 92% in the other trust. The other trust had ‘units’ pre-written on the form.

**Key Messages:**

**Recommendations:**

* Add an insulin prescribing section into the prescription chart.
* Bring forward the F1 insulin prescribing teaching into F1 induction week.
* Improve junior doctors knowledge by making e-learning module on diabetes compulsory