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“It gave me information immediately on what I needed”: Simulation of a new clinical decision support tool for antibiotic prescribing in general practice

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Abstract Title

***“It gave me information immediately on what I needed”: S*imulation of a new clinical decision support tool for antibiotic prescribing in general practice**

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Oral and poster abstract text (Arial, size 10 font, left aligned, maximum 250 words)

Background
There is a high rate of antibiotic prescribing in Australia. Inappropriate prescribing contributes to the development of antimicrobial resistance, over-medicalisation of self-limiting conditions, and places patients at risk of side effects without clinical benefit. As a result, there is growing interest in the development of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in general practice. One AMS strategy is to improve access to guidelines for appropriate prescribing at the point of care.

Objectives
To explore the usability and required design features of a clinical decision support (CDS) tool integrated with the electronic medical record (EMR) that provides access to Therapeutic Guidelines and patient resources.

Method
Simulation study incorporating two clinical cases with simulated patients, questionnaires and Think Aloud Interviews were conducted with eight general practitioners (GPs) in September 2018 across metropolitan Melbourne.

Results
7/8 of the GPs were satisfied with the usability of the CDS tool and all thought the consultations were representative of a general practice consultation. Analysis of the Think-Aloud interviews found: (1) The CDS tool assisted with clinical decision making and informed appropriate prescribing; (2) The tool would be of increased benefit to GPs who were less experienced or not familiar with Therapeutic Guidelines; (3) Demonstrating guidelines was helpful to ‘convince’ patients when antibiotics were not necessary; (4) The patient information section provided relevant evidence-based information for patients, which enhanced communication between the GP and the patient.

Conclusions (if applicable)
The CDS tool will be further developed and implemented in a pilot AMS quality improvement program in general practice.