

Antenatal patient receives timely, updated guidance from specialist to start new medication



Initial patient presentation

Dr Edwina Akerele recently saw an antenatal patient, at Mulberry Medical Practice in NHS North Central London CCG. The patient's midwife recommended that she discussed going on "Acyclovir Prophylaxis in the late stages of her pregnancy with her GP, due to history of recurrent genital herpes".

When Dr Akerele saw the patient, she "was well with no symptoms of genital herpes". Therefore, Dr Akerele decided to make a Telephone Advice & Guidance call via Consultant Connect, to discuss the case with a local Gynaecologist. The call proved very useful, as the Gynaecologist let Dr Akerele know that the guidance had recently changed, as "research had shown it is better for patients with recurrent herpes, to be on Acyclovir Prophylaxis from 36 weeks".



How the service benefitted the patient

"The patient was very satisfied that the recommended management plan, to prescribe the medication, came from a specialist who was aware of the new guidance."

The patient felt:

- Reassured as the specialist was confident on the right prescription.
- Safer taking the medication following the Telephone Advice & Guidance call, as previously her midwife and the GP were unsure.
- Satisfied with the care provided.



How the service benefitted the GP

Dr Akerele says the service is efficient and allows patient "management plans to start in a timely fashion".

She also adds that it helps to "bridge the gap between primary and secondary care communication" and that she can "discuss challenging cases with specialist colleagues, to make better decisions for patients".

Dr Akerele:

- Feels more supported in her role.
- Learnt medical knowledge which may help future patient management.



About the GP and technology used

Dr Edwina Akerele has been a GP for 18 months in North Central London, Barnet.

She uses Telephone Advice & Guidance because it "reduces the risk of any potential patient safety issues, as there is no delay in initiating plans".

Dr Akerele says the service is "efficient and all the consultants are friendly, approachable and you can learn a lot".

If you have any questions about this service, please get in touch on 01865 261467 or at hello@consultantconnect.org.uk