

FIRSTLightTM IN A PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL DISPENSARY

Aston University and Birmingham Children's Hospital Research

FIRSTLightTM has been the topic of a study undertaken by Aston University and the Birmingham Children's Hospital. The study compared the use of [FIRSTLightTM](#) to the British National Formulary for Children (BNFc) and other reference sources used by pharmacists when clinically checking prescriptions in a paediatric hospital dispensary.

The utility of the decision support tool FIRSTLightTM in a paediatric hospital dispensary

Aims:

To determine if [FIRSTLightTM](#) is suitable to support pharmacists when clinically checking prescriptions in a paediatric hospital dispensary.

Methods:

Stage 1: Pre-piloted, structured, direct observation of dispensary clinical pharmacists resolving clinical concerns on hospital prescriptions, prior to dispensing, over an 11 day period (25 hours observation).

Setting was a single UK paediatric hospital providing both secondary and tertiary care that at the time of the study did not use FIRSTLightTM.

Data set included: drug, route, dose, patient details, pharmacist, resources consulted, time taken, and if the query was resolved.

Stage 2: Retrospective use of the decision support tool FIRSTLightTM to identify if relevant information was available from this source, and time taken to obtain.

Results: 51 clinical queries were observed during the study period that required reference to (drug) information sources for resolution.

These were managed by 8 different pharmacists and involved 41 different drugs (chemical entities). Seven different information sources were consulted a total of 61 times. Most frequently used resource was BNFc (n=34, 56%).

FIRSTLightTM was shown retrospectively to provide the relevant information required to resolve the query on 33 occasions (65%). In comparison the BNFc was able to provide the required information alone on 27 (44%) of occasions.

Time taken to resolve the queries, excluding those with delays (n=4) without using FIRSTLightTM ranged from 16 secs to 18 minutes 53 seconds (mean 4 min 21 secs).

Time taken to identify relevant information using FIRSTLightTM ranged from 20 seconds to 5 min 21 secs (mean 2 min 43 secs).

Overall FIRSTLightTM was both quicker and provided the necessary information on 19 occasions (37%).

Conclusion: FIRSTLightTM may be a useful resource to provide clinical information to pharmacists when clinically checking paediatric prescriptions in a hospital dispensary.

Further work will be required to determine the most time effective pathway for obtaining or confirming necessary clinical information in this setting.

FIRSTLightTM may also be considered by community pharmacists who are known to have difficulties managing hospital prescriptions.^[1]

1. Terry DR, Sinclair AG, Marriott JF et al. Problems dispensing hospital prescriptions in community pharmacy: a survey of primary-care pharmacists. *Arch Dis Child*. 2011;96:e1 doi:10.1136/adc.2011.211243.4.