

Pharmac seminar series

Feedback from Rheumatic fever workshop 4

The attendees of this workshop discussed how initiatives designed to prevent rheumatic fever could be broadened to influence other childhood illness/injury.

It was recognised by the group that children who are at risk of rheumatic fever are also more likely to suffer from other infectious diseases e.g skin infections, lower respiratory tract infections.

Two initiatives were discussed in detail.

1. The Wiri school pilot is an initiative being undertaken through a partnership between CMDHB and the University of Auckland funded through an HRC grant. This pilot is a feasibility study looking at how skin infections, in addition to sore throats, can be identified and treated in a school setting. As part of the pilot standing orders have been developed for public health nurses to provide antibiotic treatment for skin infections. Work is also being done to see how injury prevention could be incorporated into the model.
2. The HBDHB sore throat programme provides a housing assessment for families and facilitates installation of insulation and provides an appropriate heat source for the household. This programme also incorporates an injury prevention component which links in with Safe Kids messages and ACC injury prevention.

In addition the changes occurring in primary care were discussed as well as the potential opportunities for a more holistic /intersectoral whaanau approach through Whaanau Ora. The group thought it was important to consider ways to broaden the sore throat model to incorporate other interventions in order to “increase the bang for the buck” of rheumatic fever prevention and improve health outcomes for our most at risk children.