**Abstract Submission – 15 minute, 30 minute, 1 hour oral session or poster**

**Title:** How do GPs utilise the electronic medical record and guidelines to make decisions about antibiotic prescribing?

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**Background:**

T​he use of antibiotics in the Australian community is much higher than most comparable countries, with 80% of antibiotics used in human medicine prescribed in general practice. Data suggest that a significant proportion of this use is not concordant with guidelines (1). Issues identified include antibiotics prescribed for likely viral infections, antibiotic duration too long, spectrum too broad or incorrect dose or frequency. These prescriptions have the potential to contribute to adverse patient outcomes and the acceleration of antibiotic resistance amongst local pathogens. Currently, there is insufficient data on how Australian GPs make decisions around antibiotic prescribing and the influence of guidelines on their choices. To improve guideline adherence and appropriate prescribing, we need to understand how GPs use guidelines and the electronic medical record (EMR) to inform antibiotic prescribing.

**Aims**

To explore how GPs utilise the EMR and guidelines to make decisions about antibiotic prescribing.

**Method**

25 GPs from five general practices in Victoria have been recruited to take part in focus groups. This will be followed by an observation study where the work flow of one participating GP per practice is observed and their use of the EMR and guidelines recorded using field notes. A data triangulation approach will be used. Data will be thematically analysed using NVivo.

**Results**

Focus groups are currently being conducted and results will be presented at GP18.

**Conclusion**

This study will provide important insight into the current use of antibiotic prescribing guidelines in general practice. This data will be used to inform the design of a clinical decision support tool integrated with the EMR to optimise antibiotic prescribing in general practice.

**References**

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC). AURA 2017: Second

Australian report on antimicrobial use and resistance in human health. Sydney: ACSQHC;

2017.