


5th July – Reading Part C

Text 2: Antibiotic prescriptions

Paragraph 4 – Vocab:

- Well-warranted
- Cautious
- Enthusiastic

18 What **point** does **Dr Justin Coleman** make about **'cautious'** prescribers?



1. The question asks “What point...” – What do we need to answer this question?
2. The paragraph mentions two kinds of “prescribers” – Which one should we focus on?

While there are obviously cases in which antibiotic prescriptions are well-warranted, recent research has also shown that doctors considered as 'cautious' prescribers actually have the same rate of adverse outcomes from infections as 'enthusiastic' prescribers. 'I think this suggests that family doctors who are cautious prescribers still give antibiotics where they are needed. The difference lies in the larger numbers of people who probably don't need the antibiotics.' says Dr Justin Coleman, Chair of NPS MedicineWise's 'Choosing Wisely Australia' initiative. 'And that's really where we need to make the changes.'

18 What point does Dr Justin Coleman make about 'cautious' prescribers?

- (A) They are **solely motivated** by concerns about antibiotic resistance.
- (B) They see a **lower number** of adverse outcomes than 'enthusiastic' prescribers.
- (C) They care for patients **as effectively as** 'enthusiastic' prescribers.
- (D) They **have made active changes** to their prescribing habits.

Paragraph 5 – Vocab:

- Intervene
- Irony
- Deflection

19 What **downside** of **'delayed prescribing'** is mentioned in the fifth paragraph?

1. The question mentions “downside” – What does this mean?
2. How can you find the details you need in the paragraph?

What can family doctors do? One approach is to intervene at the prescribing stage. **'Delayed prescribing'** is a strategy in which a prescription, or 'script', is written for antibiotics, but the patient is asked not to fill it for 48 hours. **'It does work in the sense that only a third of patients are ever likely to fill the script.'** says Turnidge. **'But the irony of that is if you need an antibiotic, you actually need it now. Waiting two days isn't a great idea.'** Turnidge does, however, suggest that delayed prescribing is useful as a deflection strategy because it sends the message to patients that says, 'No, you don't need antibiotics now.' **'Another strategy'** being considered by the ACSQHC is introducing scripts that expire within two weeks of being written. Turnidge believes **this** could be very effective because it will prevent patients from storing prescriptions for weeks or months then using it for some other indication.

19 What downside of 'delayed prescribing' is mentioned in the fifth paragraph?

- (A) Doctors **are uncomfortable** telling patients that they can't have the antibiotics now.
- (B) It **might be unsafe** to make patients wait two days before taking antibiotics.
- (C) Patients **don't like being asked to wait** two days before taking antibiotics.
- (D) **Two thirds of patients** will never fill the prescription for antibiotics.

20 What does the word **'this'** in the fifth paragraph refer to?

1. When we see referring words such as “this”, how far back in the paragraph do we need to read?
2. How can the sentence after “this” be useful in understanding what the word refers to?

What can family doctors do? One approach is to intervene at the prescribing stage. 'Delayed prescribing' is a strategy in which a prescription, or 'script', is written for antibiotics, but the patient is asked not to fill it for 48 hours. 'It does work in the sense that only a third of patients are ever likely to fill the script,' says Turnidge. 'But the irony of that is if you need an antibiotic, you actually need it now. Waiting two days isn't a great idea.' Turnidge does, however, suggest that delayed prescribing is useful as a deflection strategy because it sends the message to patients that says, 'No, you don't need antibiotics now.' Another strategy being considered by the ACSQHC is introducing scripts that expire within two weeks of being written. Turnidge believes **this** could be very effective because it will prevent patients from storing prescriptions for weeks or months then using it for some other indication.

20 What does the word **'this'** in the fifth paragraph refer to?

- (A) making patients wait before receiving a script
- (B) reducing the waiting time before scripts can be filled
- (C) limiting the number of prescriptions per patient
- (D) giving patients scripts that are valid for a limited period of time

Answers:

18) C

19) B

20) D