An Effective Method (audio alert device) to Enhance Medication Safety for NSAID administration in the Accident & Emergency Department (AED) of Pok Oi Hospital (POH)

Wong WMB(1), Ma SMS(1), Yu KM(1), Leung YYH(1), Ong KL(1), LEE SN(1)
(1) Accident and Emergency Department, Pok Oi Hospital

Keywords:
Medication
Safety
NSAID
AED
Effective
POH

Introduction
Medication safety is one of the top-ten risks in New Territories West Cluster (NTWC) risk registry and many resources have been invested in enhancing medication safety and prevent medication incident. There were 64 incidents in POH AED reported through the Advance Incident Reporting System (AIRS) from Sep 2013 to Aug 2014 and 10 of them are medication incidents, of which three of them were related to Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammation Drug (NSAID) administration and all were classified under Serious Untoward Events (SUE).

Objectives
Medication incident relating to NSAID has not occurred after the installation of the audio alert device. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this device for the safe administration of NSAIDs, a survey was performed in POH AED in Jul 2014.

Methodology
A questionnaire was designed to gather the opinion of the nurses on the medication safety measures which are currently in use at POH AED and evaluate the effectiveness of the audio alert device to disseminate information on NSAIDs administration. They were distributed to all nurses one month after the installation of the audio alert device and the nurses were requested to complete the questionnaire separately.
All the nurses in POH AED know that an audio alert device has been installed for the safe administration of NSAIDs and that 95% nurses opined that audio alert is useful and better than other eye-catching signage use for promoting medication safety. Up to 90% nurses agree that audio alert device is useful in prevention NSAIDs medication incident. Ninety eight percent of nurses are able to point out that audio alert mentioned that Aspirin is related to NSAID and cannot be administered in the presence of Aspirin allergy. Ninety three percent of nurses can correctly list out the types of NSAIDs available in the ward stock at POH AED as mentioned in the audio alert device. There has been no medication incident relating to NSAIDs administration after the implementation of the audio alert device. We conclude that the use of this audio alert device, by providing important and timely information prior to administration to the nurses, has helped to enhance the safe use of NSAIDs.