Introduction
Enhance medication safety through reducing wardstock was one of the risk reduction strategies in our cluster in 2010-11. Wardstock is available in every hospital. It allows immediate drug administration when required, and plays an important role in stat dose prescriptions. Its setback is its bypassing all the intended checking points, posing a risk to medication safety. If made mandatory all prescriptions have to travel through all the safety checking points, apart from Information Technology developments, abolishing wardstock is a method. But the massive workload generated would increase the turnaround time and subsequently, affect patient care. Increasing workforce may help, but have resource implications. Hence, it is important to strike a balance among all factors. GH completed the Phase I exercise in February 2011, focusing on the classification of wardstock into common and emergency category by medical and nursing staff in respective wards, followed by the removal of uncommon and non-emergency items from their wardstock. Phase II of the exercise focusing on drugs with multiple strengths, and/or drugs having similar appearance and packaging, was commenced in 2014.

Objectives
To further streamline wardstock list.

Methodology
Representatives (Medical and/or Nursing) from each clinical unit screened their wardstock list, and selected the following for removal: a) Uncommon and non-emergency items due to change of prescribing pattern since phase I b) For drugs having multiple strengths and/or similar packaging and appearance, remove all strength except the lowest/commonly used strength c) Drugs classified as “High Alert Medications”, remove as far as practicable

Result
26% of total wardstock items in whole hospital were removed. Together with Phase I
exercise, a total of 37% of total wardstock items were removed since year 2011. Total wardstock items refer to the summation of “number of wardstock items in each ward.” Within the 26%, 50% was uncommon and non-emergency items. 38% was from multiple strengths, similar packaging and appearance and 12% was “High Alert Medications”.