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Admission Medication Order Entry (AMOE): a Safe and an Effective Way to Enhance Medication Safety in Emergency Department.

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Introduction

Major Medication incidents are often recurrent in busy Emergency Departments (ED). One of the main reasons is that we still rely on manual prescription. We would like to adopt a medication prescription system best suit Emergency Departments. Tin Shui Wai Hospital (TSWH) is the first hospital in Hong Kong to carry out a pilot study of Admission Medication Order Entry (AMOE) since its commencement of service on 15th March, 2017.

Objectives

To enhance the medication safety by using AMOE to patients who attend the TSWH ED.

Methodology

This program involves patients, of triage category 3 to 5, attending TSWH ED. Whenever the emergency physician would like to prescribe a medication during the consultation, s/he needs to sign on the AMOE printout from CMS before the nurse would carry out the prescription.

AMOE inherits the merit of In Patient Medication Order Entry (IPMOE) that it could provide mandatory system allergy checking upon drug prescription. Another merit is that it helps to save the time and effort of nurse to seek clarification from physicians when they encounter illegible drug prescription.

The departmental drug set of AMOE, including generic drug name, the dosage and route of administration, is available in CMS to facilitate drug prescriptions, that are commonly encountered in daily practice, for example drugs to relieve pain or dizziness. It, meanwhile, improves the standardization of prescription by physicians within the department.

A survey was conducted in the form of questionnaire to review the feedback of AMOE from doctors and nurses.

Result

Twenty-two questionnaires were collected in the survey. 86% participants found the drug prescription was clearer in AMOE, while 77% participants found AMOE useful and it helps to reduce medication error. No major adverse event was reported since implementation of the program.

Admission Medication Order Entry (AMOE) is a safe and cost-effective way to enhance medication safety in Emergency Department.