



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Medication Safety Project: Safe Administration of Medication (Drug Allergy)

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Introduction

Medication incidents have been all along ranked one of the top three patient safety incident in the whole healthcare organization (Lui, 2011) and the causes are multifaceted (Jarensiripormkul, et al. 2015), including human error, system loophole, resource availability and limited knowledge. Among the medication incidents, drug allergy, an adverse drug reaction, can lead to serious morbidity or death. It creates unwanted clinical response to a patient and constitutes additional burden to patient and healthcare system (Asia, et al. 2012).

In HKWC, about 4% medication incident was due to known drug allergy in the past 5 years. Contributing factors included lack of drug allergy awareness, i.e. not checking and non-compliance with guidelines, or strive for balance between safety and urgency. It is also noticed that some patient is unaware of his drug allergy status.

A project on Safe Administration of Medication: Drug Allergy was launched on 23 Nov 2015 to reduce drug allergy incident in our Department.

Objectives

1. Reduce drug allergy medication incidence in our Department
2. Develop Safe Culture on Drug Allergy Management
3. Enhance safety culture and nurses behavior on drug allergy checking

Methodology

A framework of checking procedure protocol of checking patient's drug allergy status, including cue cards, checking card and do list, was developed.

Training: education was given to all ward nurses. Staff reference, Notes on Logistic of Safe Administration of Medication (Drug Allergy) was made.

Evaluation: audit form on nurses' drug allergy management and patient's drug allergy knowledge questionnaire were developed to assess and evaluate patient's knowledge.

Staff would follow the procedure of checking drug allergy on admission, during

administration of medication (AOM) and upon discharge.

Drug allergy education was given to patient with drug allergy to promote patient's understanding and active report of their drug allergy status to healthcare professionals.

Audit on drug allergy management was conducted for evaluation on staff compliance. A cross-ward audit on drug allergy management was conducted on 24th & 25th Dec 2016 in psychiatric wards of our Department. Staff demonstrated AOM at lunch time. Total of 10 nurses were audited.

Result

Findings:

Results of the cross ward audit

Full compliance of nursing practice on Safe Administration of Medication (Drug Allergy) was noticed. No drug allergy medication incidence was reported since the project was launched.

Conclusion:

The checking protocol of drug allergy was effective in promoting safe administration of medication related to drug allergy. A culture of careful checking of drug allergy checking was developed in our psychiatric wards.