To use electronic (e-) Drug Cabinet for drug retrieval after Pharmacy service hours – a measure to enhance medication safety.
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Introduction

GH Pharmacy is a non-24 hours operating department. For urgent medication orders that arose outside Pharmacy service hours, non-wardstock medications were obtained by nursing staff from Pharmacy Night Drug Cabinet, or dispensed by on-call Pharmacist subsequent to being paged. The Pharmacy Night Drug Cabinet contained a small list of drugs, with numbers assigned to each drawer to guide the picking process. The list and the retrieval procedure are available in each ward and on the GH Pharmacy website. As the requested item could be an unfamiliar or even a new item to the staff, caution must be exercised in the picking process. This picking process may pose a risk to medication safety.

Objectives

To enhance medication safety for drug retrieval by hospital nursing staff from Pharmacy drug cabinet outside Pharmacy service hours

Methodology

- To bid CBV for an e-Drug Cabinet with guiding features to pick the intended drug item. For high alert medications, only the corresponding compartment is released for picking to improve accuracy. The picked item is then reconfirmed by scanning the barcode on the drug label - To discuss with end-users on the drug list kept in the Cabinet - To provide training to authorized users to the Cabinet - To have proper documentation on the transactions - To affix relevant alert sticker, targeting the class of antimicrobials, on the drug pack for cross sensitivity

Result

- To retrieve the correct drug item according to prescription - To have proper documentation of medication taken for emergency use - To facilitate known drug allergy checking against drug class with possible cross sensitivity - To allow only

authorized and trained staff as retriever 1. Service commenced on July 31st, 2017 2. A total of 44 staff (29 Nursing, 15 Pharmacy) received training and is granted access to the e-Drug Cabinet 3. A total of 71 items (34 injections, 37 oral drugs) is kept in the Cabinet, with a broaden list of antimicrobials 4. For the past four months since its usage : - The retrieval rate of injections was 32% and oral drugs 38% - Class of drugs with highest retrieval frequency was antimicrobials at 82% - The total number of retrieval was 66, with 53% over weekends and holidays, 47% on working weekdays after Pharmacy service hours - All specialties have used the service except OPH, with distribution of CMU (47%), CCU (24%), PMU (15%), GMU (9%) and TBC (5%). - Daily transaction report generated : i. On matching the records of transactions with the Medication Administration Record (MAR), the picking discrepancy was found to be nil ii.On counterchecking the drug allergy information on