



Medication Safety Round as an Effective Patient Safety Program

NG SYS, HO HLH, PANG KCJ, LAM SC, LI CF, YUEN CMA, CHUNG HP

Tung Wah Hospital

Purpose:

Medication safety is one of the top clinical risks in all hospitals. Different healthcare professionals have been making their own efforts to enhance patient safety in this aspect. In 2009, a multidisciplinary team comprising doctors, nurses and pharmacists, was formed to promote medication safety and conducted a structured safety round in Tung Wah Hospital.

Key improvements intended:

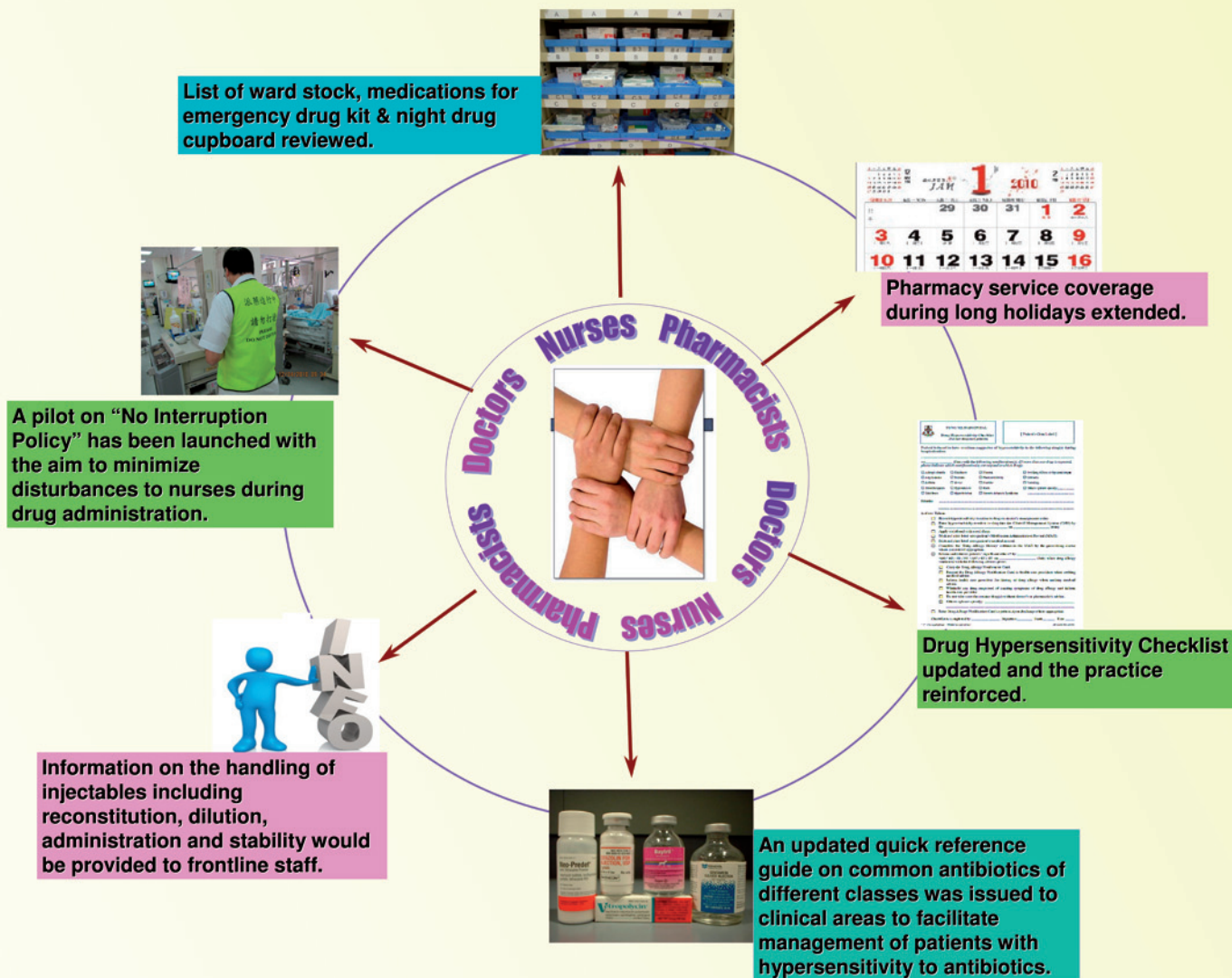
- To enhance communication among different healthcare professionals and clinical units through adopting a multidisciplinary approach.
- To assure compliance for medication safety recommendations at ward level.
- To elicit staff's concerns on medication safety and execute improvement measures within TWH.

Method:

The survey team has visited all wards in the hospital to conduct the medication safety round. The round involved two main parts. One was the audit checklist taking reference to the report on "Drug Administration Procedures and Practices 2000 edition" and "Self-assessment guide for Medication Safety 2005 edition". The second part was interview with front-line staff to elicit their perceived risks that compromised medication safety

Results / Outcomes:

The overall compliance rate with the 15 pre-set criteria on the checklist was >90%. Many front-line nurses have actively voiced their concerns with regard to medication safety. After deliberation in the working group, a number of achievable recommendations were made. These improvement measures have covered most aspects in medication management such as drug administration, ward stock and storage, drug information and various operational issues as well.



Conclusion:

Medication management is extremely complex in hospitals. Therefore, many of the medication safety issues can hardly be solved by any single department. In this exercise, the multidisciplinary medication safety round is proved an effective tool to promote patient safety. Through well-planned safety rounds, the management would be able to identify real issues in clinical areas and the staff concerns can be addressed more promptly. Moreover, with the concerted efforts of different departments, many long-stayed problems can be tackled more efficiently.

