



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Submitting author: Ms Salina FONG

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, KWC

Audit on the positive patient identification by using 2D barcode system

Yeung TFV (1), Yeung SPG (2)(4), Chan KL (1)(5), Chui TNG(1)(5), FONG KYS (2)(4), Hui MF(1)(5), Lam SKP (3)(5), Li LCJ(3)(5), Mau KY(1)(5), So SPC(3)(5), Yu YHS(1)(5), Yung KYK(1)(5),

(1) Department of Medicine and Geriatrics, (2) Central Nursing Division, (3) Department of Surgery, (4) Quality and Safety Team, (5) Audit Team

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Introduction

Bedside printing of labels for all tests (except Histopathology) was fully implemented in January 2011

Objectives

Audit on positive patient identification by using 2D barcode system

Methodology

In order to enhance patient safety, the application of 2D barcode technology for patient identification (phase 3) - Bedside printing of labels for all tests (except Histopathology) was fully implemented in January 2011. To evaluate the standard practice in positive patient identification (PPI) by using 2D barcode system and visual checking, a concurrent audit was conducted for patient identification by using 2D barcode when taking specimens (such as type and screen) in clinical areas. The target auditees included clinicians, nursing staff and blood taking team. Convenience sampling was adopted with 3 – 5 patients selected in each clinical ward.

Result

The audit was conducted during the period from 1 December to 31 December 2012. 33 cases were recruited. The overall compliance was 100%. Staff were skillful in handling 2D barcode system, and followed the standard operation practice in patient identification, but there were some observations for which recommendation for improvement were made: 1. Staff were reminded to sign the job sheet with the time and date specified (instead of just crossing out the job sheet and chopping the name). 2. Staff were reminded to perform visual checking at the same time of identification. 3. Hand hygiene should be ensured before and after the procedure. 4. Needleless device to be used to prevent needle stick injury for blood taking procedure. The audit report was shared in the department and hospital website for improvement.