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Submitting author: Mr Wing Fu LAI

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, North District Hospital, NTEC

Effectiveness of medication knowledge sharing in the enhancement of awareness on high risk medication among nursing staff: A regional acute hospital study

Lai WF(1), Lau ECK(1), Tong MWC(1)

(1)Department of Medicine, North District Hospital

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Introduction

Administration of High risk medication is commonly in medical ward. The study served to investigate the key knowledge gap in high risk medication and also to study the relationship of the systemic knowledge sharing and the influence of knowledge building in nursing staff. The participated wards and units included all medical wards and clinical units in the Department of Medicine of North District Hospital. The ranks involved and have been classified into 3 groups namely: Group 1: EN, Group 2: RN and Group 3: APN or above.

Objectives

To identify the knowledge gap in day-to-day administration of medication (AOM) To improve nursing staff knowledge on high risk medications To study the relationship of knowledge sharing and knowledge building in nursing staff

Methodology

The identical two medication surveys started from 10 May 2013 to 20 May 2013 and from 10 August 2013 to 26 August 2013. High risk medications sharing among wards and units will be followed after first set of pre-test by nursing staff. The survey form was composed with 12 multiple choice questions. The content of the multiple choice questions were retrieved from high risk medications education session available on the intranet under Department of Pharmacy in North District Hospital.

Result

The response rate of pre and post test is 91.57% (n=152) and 89.12% (n=148) respectively. The medication knowledge sharing improves nurses' knowledge in terms of an increase in the percentage of correct answers in the post survey. The means score of Pre-test was 72.86% (SD: 12.67) while that of Post-test was 76.85% (SD: 13.21), there was a significant improvement of score in Pre-test to Post-test after high risk medication sharing by nursing staff. In summary, the overall performance and understanding in known drug allergy, vasopressor and inotropes were good as indicated higher marks in both pre and post survey results. In contrast, the performance and understanding in hypoglycaemic agents and concentrated

electrolytes were inadequate as evidence by only 72.64% and 57.47% respectively in the correct answering in the survey. This study provided more concrete information on further training needs on specific high risk medications.