



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Improving Medication Safety in Community Nursing Service (CNS)

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Introduction

Patient safety is the first priority for healthcare providers especially medication safety. Medication error may cause or lead to patient morbidity and mortality, and that could be preventable. The greatest number (33.3 – 71.4%) of medication errors is reported during the process of administration of medicines. Hospital Authority has initiated guidelines on medication management and technologies support to minimize medication administration error. According to Hospital Authority guideline, double checking procedure is recommended in medication administration. However, in community setting, only one community nurse is assigned in each home visit to perform nursing care. For medication administration, community nurse would implement single checking in day to day clinical practice.

Objectives

To enhance medication safety with medication photograph in drug pre-packing in community care

Methodology

The quality improvement project was implemented in 3Q 2012. Group sharing sessions were given to all community nurses to introduce the use of electronic mobile device for taking medication photographs in the process of medication administration. The processes of proper medication administration, photo taking, double checking with partner nurse and documentation were reinforced. For medication administration, the visiting nurse would bear the primary responsibility. He/she would properly administer or pre-pack medication before taking medication photograph by electronic device at patient's home. Afterwards he/she would check the medication photographs with his/her partner nurse against a valid prescription in CNS centre. Both visiting nurse and his/her partner nurse would then sign on patient record.

Result

1. The incidence of medication errors report to the Advance Incidents Reporting System (AIRS) of Hospital Authority was significantly reduced (2 cases from 2Q 2011 to 2Q 2012, 2 vs zero case from 3Q 2012 to 3Q 2013, 3) 2. Nurse attitude/ feeling towards the project (pending)