



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Enhance Medication Safety: 5 Steps to Success**

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#### **Introduction**

Medication administration to patients is a frequent and essential part of clinical nursing practice with high risk of errors occurrence. Proactively engaging front line nurses are pivotal strategies in reducing medication incidents.

#### **Objectives**

To enhance medication safety among front line nurses through a series of engaging strategies and promotional programs.

#### **Methodology**

Step 1: “Medication Safety Continuity Release” To update staff knowledge and potential loopholes on medication safety by designing the “Medication Safety Continuity Release” 藥物安「傳」放題 poster monthly. Front line nurses' suggestions on their concerns on medication safety are invited in the design. In order to promote the focus, one simple message is disseminated monthly consecutively to facilitate the posting on a prominent designed board for sharing at wards and other clinical areas. Step 2: “Alert timer” for high risk medication infusion In order to ensure safe administration of high risk medication infusion by applying the “Alert Timer” on the infusion pump to facilitate the rate checking. The timer serves as an alarm for nurses to re-check the infusion rate after the first 15 minutes and the check is documented in patient's intake & output chart accordingly. Step 3: Design of “Do Not Disturb” wearing To launch a hospital-wide competition by inviting all staff to design “Do Not Disturb” medication vest or shoulder ribbon or hand sleeve for minimizing the distraction during nursing medication round. The winner's design is garmented for clinical use. Step 4: Promotion of staff near miss reporting culture To promote the Near Miss Reporting culture in Nurses Forums and Quality & Safety promotions. A simplified reporting procedure by faxing the form to Quality & Safety Office is performed in order to facilitate a more convenient reporting . Step 5: Medication safety

game booth To increase staff awareness on medication safety by organizing mobile educational game booths which consist of interesting and interactive elements, like 'matching high risk medication', 'spot the wrong prescription MAR' were opened to all nursing staff, doctors and pharmacy staff and the game booths were carried out in the staff canteen and ward visit.

### **Result**

"Medication Safety Release" is widely welcomed and the near-miss reporting on medication was 22 from Aug - Dec 2013 which nil comparing to previous report. Total 373 participants attended the game booth and 158 participants at ward visits with 100% correctness to the quiz. The best design of "Do Not Disturb" medication vest was selected out of 28 designs in the competition and it was garmented for use. Number of medication incident was dropped 40%, from 10 to 6 compared from Mar-Jul 2013 to Aug - Dec 2013. In conclusion, to enhance medication safety by initiation of different promotion programs and strategies in 5 steps are satisfactory in North District Hospital and there are still challenges for further improvement in the future.