



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 118

Submitting author: Ms Mary LAU

Post title: Pharmacist, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, KWC

Measures to prevent inadvertent unplugging or switching off of power supply to pharmaceutical refrigerators in Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital

LAU WM(1), HUI J(2), WONG E(3), TO B(2), CHEUNG LP(1), FONG S(3), WONG TC(2)

(1) Pharmacy Department, (2) Administration and Support, (3) Central Nursing Division, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital

Keywords:

Pharmaceutical refrigerator

Power supply

Temperature excursion

Enhancement measures

Patient safety

Drug wastage

Introduction

Inadvertent switch off of power supply to pharmaceutical refrigerators could lead to temperature excursion and result in substantial financial loss, operation interruption and negative impact to patient safety. In view of a recent incident regarding inadvertent switch off of power supply to pharmaceutical refrigerators at other clinic, various proactive measures have been implemented in Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital (OLMH) to prevent unplugging or switching off of power supply to pharmaceutical refrigerators by mistake.

Objectives

To minimize drug wastage and patients' impact consequential to inadvertent switch off of power supply and subsequent temperature excursion of pharmaceutical refrigerators in Pharmacy Department and various clinical units/wards in OLMH.

Methodology

Various measures have been implemented as follows: (1) Sharing has been made in pharmacy and at nursing meeting respectively to remind staff not to turn off or unplug power supply to pharmaceutical refrigerators at wards, treatment rooms and clinical units (2) Plastic covers for power sockets have been installed by Maintenance Department to hinder inadvertent switching off or unplugging of the power supply for all pharmaceutical refrigerators in OLMH (3) For twin sockets supplying the refrigerators, plugging in any other electrical appliances to the spare socket was avoided as it increased the chance of mistakenly switching off the refrigerator power. The spare socket was advised to be covered using a "Safety Plug Cover" (4) Eye-catching "DO NOT unplug/DO NOT switch off" alert signs have been affixed at sockets supplying the refrigerators in pharmacy, wards, treatment rooms and clinical units with co-ordination of Pharmacy Department and Central Nursing Division (CND)

Result

The enhancement measures improve the alertness of staff and prominently prevent unplugging or switching off of power supply to pharmaceutical refrigerators by mistake in OLMH. It minimizes potential drug wastage, operation interruption and negative impact to patients consequential to inadvertent switch off of power supply and potential temperature excursion of pharmaceutical refrigerators.