

Improved efficiency and safety Medicine Drugs Trolleys

PRH- Ward 7, Ward 9, Ward 11, Ward 17
RSH- Ward 21, Ward 27, Ward 28, Ward 35
Getting to Good: Fundamentals in Care

Abstract: Colleagues are currently covering multiple staffing gaps and each drugs trolley has a variety of drugs and a different layout which could result in delays to patients receiving their medication or receiving the wrong medication in error along with poor staff satisfaction. Following a meeting with the Deputy Director of Nursing- Medicine, it was requested that all wards within the division are planned in to have a review of the drugs trolleys on the ward area and encouraged to utilise 5S principles.

SMART Aim

To improve the drugs round process to facilitate improved patient care by standardisation of the drugs trolleys for the Medical wards with a focus on improving patient and staff experience by the end of September 2022.

Plan

The medical teams engaged with each other and included the pharmacy team to devise and agree a standard drugs trolley format that adhered to the pharmacy guidelines. Using the 5S principles, the team reviewed the agreed standard medication list to understand what items were **necessary** and which were **unnecessary** for each ward area and adapted the lists to suit each ward. The plan was to test the format agreed within the division in order to remove the waste of defects, time and motion for colleagues.



Do

The team used the standard drugs trolley format that had been agreed in the Medical Division and applied this to the drugs trolleys on the ward. Drugs were segregated, stored by drug type (tablets/liquids) and alphabetised so that they followed the pharmacy regulations and were easy to find. A BEFORE and AFTER photo was also added as a visual guide for the correct layout.

Study

Initial testing of the new format has increased staff satisfaction from 0% to 100% across all ward areas, with colleagues being able to find items easily. Initial PDSA cycles have shown an improvement in the time taken to find drugs in the trolleys, however, due to patient mix and changes, further analysis will be required to understand if there is a statistically significant improvement in time over the 30,60,90 days.

Act

Further work will be carried out to understand whether there is a reduction in drug errors and to maintain the standard set. Additional PDSA cycles will be carried out to future proof the drugs trolleys to ensure they are ready and topped up for the next user and ensure **Self-Discipline** is maintained. A review of the standard work will be carried out by the Ward Manager to ensure **sustainability** along with a divisional sweep of the drugs trolley on the ward.