

Improved efficiency and safety Drugs Trolley

Getting to Good: Fundamentals in Care

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Abstract: Colleagues are currently covering multiple staffing gaps and each drugs trolley has a variety of drugs and a different layout. Variation can 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 reviewed the drugs trolleys on the ward area and were encouraged to utilise 5S principles.

SMART Aim

To improve the drugs round process to facilitate improved patient care. Standardisation of ward 32 drugs trolley to focus on improving patient and staff experience by the end of August 2022.

Plan

Using the 5S principles, the team reviewed the agreed standard medication list to understand what items were **necessary** and which were **unnecessary** for their speciality and adapted the list accordingly. The plan was to test the format agreed within the division.

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 drug trolley etiquette was also added as a guide and a visual sign that the trolley is ready to use was agreed.

Study

The team have tested the standard format and although there has not been a statistically significant change in time saved, colleague satisfaction has increased from 0% to 100%. The team will monitor if there is a decrease in the time taken to carry out the drugs round alongside monitoring missing drugs. The Ward Manager will agree with her team roles and responsibilities for maintaining the standard of the trolleys to ensure they are ready to use.

Act

Further work will be carried out to understand whether there is a reduction in drug errors and to maintain the standard set. A review of the standard work will be carried out by the Ward Manager to ensure **sustainability**. All trolleys in the area will be reviewed and reflect the standard agreed.

