Administration of Medications in Glass Ampules: Promoting the Use of Filter Needles

Project Team: Karen Stapper RN, BSN (team leader) and Patricia Sheehy-McCann RN, BSN, CPAN, CAPA

Background Information:

Upon coming to work at NYU Langone Medical Center, I found that filter needles were not consistently available or being used for withdrawing medications from glass ampules. The contributing factors I identified were: decreased awareness among nurses regarding the importance of their use, lack of filter needle availability, and need for a standardized procedure.

Objectives:

- Educate nurses regarding the importance of using filter needles and the proper technique for withdrawing medications from glass ampules
- Increase the use of filter needles throughout NYULMC
- Standardize this procedure throughout NYULMC

Process of Implementation:

- Staff education (in-services, posters, e-mail, etc.)
- Increase availability of filter needles
- Develop a standardized procedure

Successful Practice Statement:

After providing staff education, and stocking filter needles in the Day Surgery PACU, there was a significant increase in the use of filter needles (from 0% to 94% when indicated). We are now implementing these interventions throughout NYULMC.

Implication for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:

The use of filter needles is an evidence based practice. However, they are not consistently used in all PACU's or hospitals. Education regarding this topic is still crucial throughout the nursing community.