

CLOSED LOOP MEDICATION BARCODE SCANNING IN PACU

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The incidence of preventable medication errors continue to exist in acute hospital setting. Serious medication error could result in a life threatening outcome, longer hospital stay and staggering cost to the patient. In 2007, Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas reported 113 incidences of medication errors. Thirty of these preventable errors considered life threatening. The implementation of Cerner CareMobile Closed Loop Medication System (CLARI-5) an integrated system with hand held barcode scanning has made a significant impact in reducing medication errors.

In April 2011, PACU was the last unit in the facility to implement CLARI-5 technology. A multidisciplinary focus group reviewed areas of concerns presented by the PACU staff and outlined action plans using rapid cycle process improvement. The objectives of the focus group were to improve efficiency of the user, to increase staff scanning compliance scores and to monitor potential delay of patient throughput in PACU.

Implementation of change included staff education and training, effective collaboration and continuous dialogue between pharmacy, informatics and PACU staff. The presence of pharmacist in the PACU played significant role in promoting efficiency in physician order verification turnaround time process. Data gathered from July 2011 through May 2012 showed improvement in overall PACU scanning compliance, achieving >90% threshold in medication and patient scanning scores. In addition, the OR holds improved from 54 as baseline to <10 per month. Leadership support and staff involvement played crucial roles in sustaining process improvement related to medication administration workflow in PACU.