



Nursing Best Practice: Promoting Medication Safety for Commonly Used Unit Based Medications in PACU

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Background

In the perioperative setting of a comprehensive cancer center, multiple classifications of medications are needed to adequately care for patients.

The nursing staff is cross-trained to work in a variety of specialty areas, requiring a need for awareness and understanding of the medications available on each unit.

Objective

The objective of this project was to provide a quick reference guide for nurses on commonly used unit-based medications in each specialty area to serve as a resource tool to help promote medication safety and minimize medication errors.

Results

A post-implementation survey was distributed to 41 nurses in August 2020 and the results indicated:

- ❖ 92.6% found the tool beneficial to their patient care
- ❖ 95.1% agreed it will promote medication safety during cross-training in other peri- anesthesia area.

Nursing Implications

A reference guide of commonly used unit-based medications is a great resource tool for nurses.

It fosters medication safety and is useful for peri-anesthesia nurses in their daily nursing practice.

Since implementation, the team has collaborated with leadership to incorporate the guide in the New Employee and cross-training orientation packet.

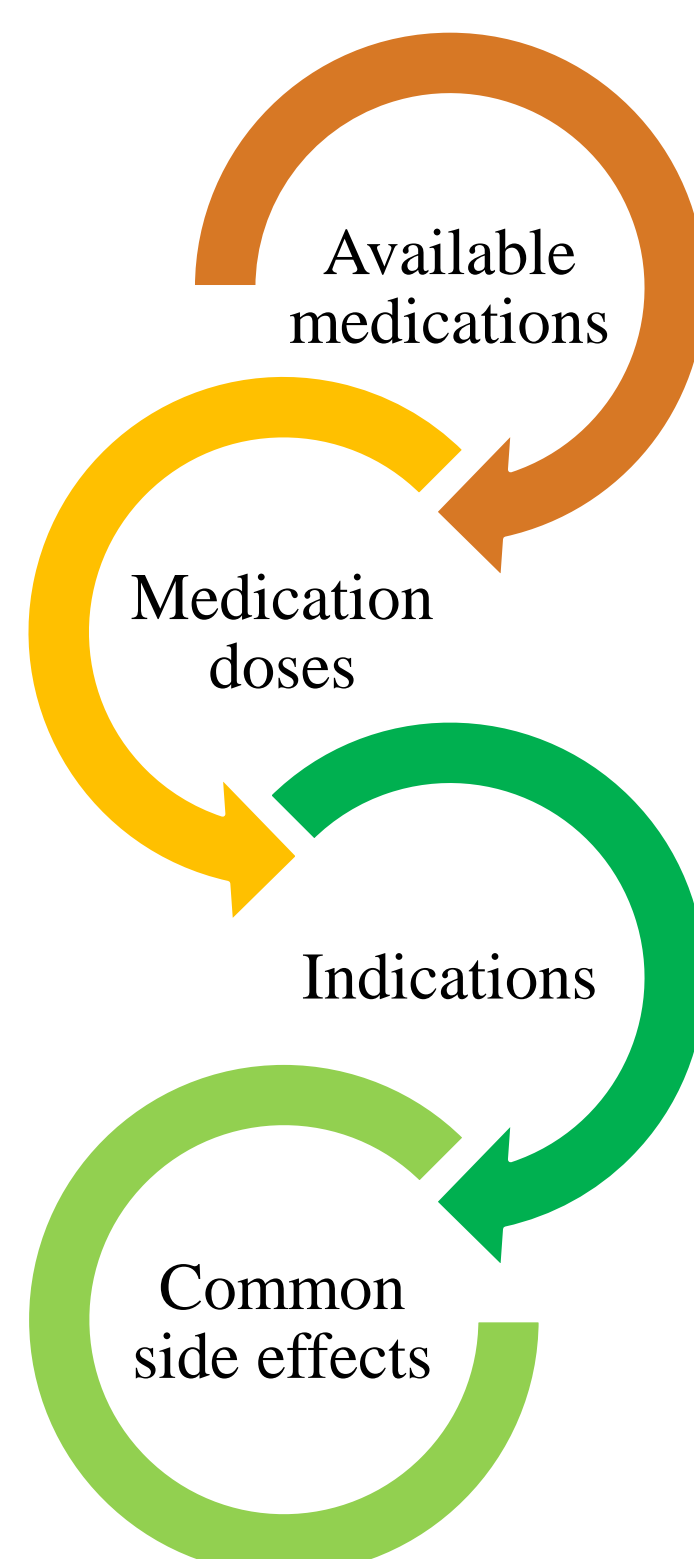
Implementation

Nurses were educated on commonly used unit-based medications utilizing a PowerPoint presentation.

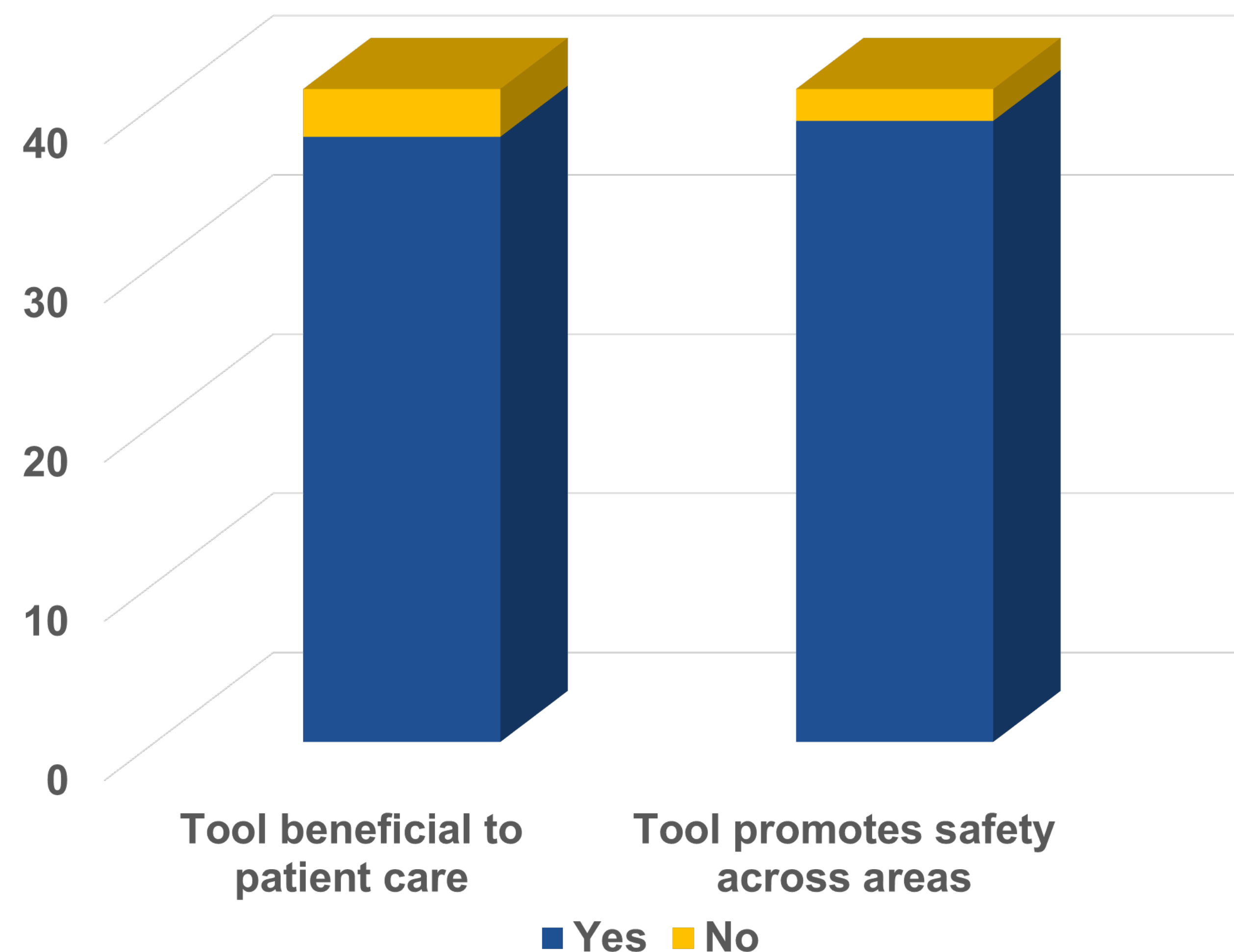
A printed quick reference guide was developed that covered unit-based available medications, medication doses, indications and common side effects.

The guide was made available for all peri-anesthesia areas to include:

- ☐ Ambulatory PACU
- ☐ Extended Recovery PACU
- ☐ Brachytherapy PACU
- ☐ Main PACU
- ☐ Pre-Op Areas



Post Implementation Feedback



Statement of Successful Practice

The commonly used unit-based medication reference guide was successful in promoting medication safety, improved patient care, and nurse satisfaction.

Resources

All Drug list content is from MD Anderson's pharmacy & Formulary-LexiComp Online, ASC Pyxis, selected based on unit commonly used, safety, efficacy, cost and the recommendations of a committee made up of physicians and pharmacists ASC MD Anderson.

The document is current as of 2021.

The availability of formulary items is subject to change.

Team Members

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