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.

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

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.

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

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.

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