Locked Medication Bedside Storage Units: Does Their Use Improve RN Satisfaction?

Allison Gallant, RN; Rebecca Jacobs, RN; Judith Whitmore, RN

Background

- 27% of an RN’s time is spent on medication-related activities; 73% is spent on non-medication-related activities.
- Approximately 36% of all errors occur during medication administration.
- Centralized administration system reliance contributes to medication errors related to interruptions & distractions.
- EMMC currently has a locked bedside medication cabinet policy.

Practice Change

- Implementation of locked bedside medication storage for patient specific medications.

Methods

- Speak with facilities and/or clinical engineering to determine best practice to initiate policy.
- Involve pharmacy to determine safe bedside medication storage.
- Collaborate with Nursing Supervisor and Clinical Educator to determine rooms for the pilot & gain approval for pre/post surveys.
- Collaboration with Clinical Educator to discuss avoiding errors & procedure at discharge.
- Distribute RN satisfaction surveys during team huddles.
- Implement bedside medication storage on Grant 6 Oncology using current PCD (35.029)

Measures and Results

Staff Survey

**Ranking Questions:**
1. How satisfied are you with the current policy for medication storage?
2. During a 12-hour shift how many patients do you have on isolation precautions?
3. How interested would you be to see the policy change to bedside medication storage?
4. How willing would you be to learn a new policy for bedside medication storage?

**Short-answer Questions:**
1. How can locked bedside medications improve nursing care?
2. What are some barriers of having locked bedside medications?
3. In your current practice what is one factor that you think can improve patient care during medication administration?
4. Do you believe that EMMC current practice for bedside medication storage is safe?
5. As a staff member at EMMC do you believe that bedside medication will improve patient satisfaction?

Results

- Results for implementation/trial of bedside medication storage on Grant 6 Oncology to be included once pre-survey questionnaires and post-survey questionnaires completed by staff.

Summary/Discussion

- IRB proposal approval process takes time and may delay trial of implementation.
- Implementation of current policy on Grant 6 Oncology requires changes to current medication administration of patient specific medications.
- Prior to initiation of the policy, locked bedside cabinets will be necessary.

Barriers

- Implementation of policy change.
- Securing locked bedside cabinets.
- Commitment from co-workers.

Conclusion

- Satisfaction survey results are as follows:
  - (In process)