



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Enhancing Paediatric Medication Safety with Inputs from Pharmacists

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Introduction

Children are more prone to medication errors than adults. Pharmacists play an essential role in the medication use process. Apart from reviewing patients' medication profiles, pharmacists can expand their roles in enhancing medication safety in children.

Objectives

To raise the awareness of medication safety in paediatric wards; To enhance medication knowledge of nursing staff

Methodology

Pharmacists, in collaboration with doctors and nurses, conducted medication safety rounds in four paediatric wards every four months. A standardized checklist was used to evaluate safety in the areas of drug storage, drug administration, equipment-handling, and transportation of drugs. Follow-up actions were provided for any problems identified. A quiz was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the medication safety round on enhancing staff's awareness. To enhance medication knowledge of nursing staff, a list of commonly used medications was compiled by pharmacists, with important points of each drug highlighted. Nurses then prepared presentation material for the weekly lunchtime medication talks based on this list. The presentation material would be reviewed by pharmacists in advance. The effectiveness of these medication talks was then evaluated. Also, a calculation exercise resembling real clinical cases was designed by pharmacists to assess the competency of drug dosage calculation of newly recruited nurses.

Result

Results: A total of 12 medications safety rounds were conducted in 2015. Each ward had been visited three times. Several recommendations were made, for instance, proper storage of fluids and electrolytes, correct procedures of drug return, installation of partitions to segregate different concentrated electrolytes. Forty-six nurses completed the quiz and the overall performance was satisfactory. It was recommended that the follow-up actions for each safety round should be shared to all

nurses through daily handover briefing and staff meeting. Over 90 per cent of nurses agreed that the weekly lunchtime medication talks enhanced their drug knowledge and over 80 per cent of nurses reported that they also enhanced their confidence in the administration of medication. The result of calculation exercise was under review and analysis. Conclusion: Pharmacists can raise the awareness of medication safety and enhance medication knowledge of nursing staff.