Increase the extent to which hospitals and related healthcare settings apply technology effectively to improve the safety of medication use

Launch Successful

On April 24 , 2014 Regina general Hospital successfully launched the first Swisslog BoxPicker in western Canada. On June 24th of the same year, Pasqua Hospital launched the second BoxPicker in Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region . The staggered implementation allowed pharmacy operations staff to adjust to the radical changes BoxPicker brought which included using a single device to fill Pyxis, ward stock, patient medication cassettes and interim/missing medications. The implementation also reduced the time between patient cassette fill and delivery 23 hours on average and eliminated the new/mod list in Regina acute sites. Evaluation is ongoing at this stage. We are starting to see reduced missing medications on more days. Future next steps include elimination of cart check and audit and further evaluation of missing medications

Objective 5.1

75 % of hospitals and related healthcare settings apply technology effectively to improve the safety of medication use

BoxPicker Update

The Regina General and Pasqua Hospital pharmacy departments have elected to implement high-density storage and retrieval robots. The project drew on the expertise of both the operational and informatics teams in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR).

High-Density Storage

BoxPicker® is a high-density storage and retrieval robot. We are able to effectively store the entire picking area and additional items such as creams, ointments, and lotions in an area less than half of the current space. Less walking required as all items will be removed from a single station.

First in Western Canada

With funding from the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, the implementation of BoxPicker® in RQHR is the first in Western Canada. Swisslog BoxPicker® selected because of size and safety advantages. The safety feature most desired is the reduced error potential in product selection.

Why BoxPicker Why Now?

BoxPicker® was selected because it has an enhanced safety profile compared to conventional carousels. A carousel delivers 20-30 items on a shelf and may utilize pick-to-light technology to direct the user while BoxPicker® delivers a box with 1 – 4 items and uses barcode to verify selection from the correct section (and on-screen prompts to select the correct pocket). Barcode verification combined with decreased opportunity for error in selecting results in the correct selection more often. Barcodes are not subject to fatigue or intention bias reducing these human factor errors. A desire to re-position pharmacy technician into more patient focused areas (e.g. BPMH, order entry).

Implementation

Both pharmacies were renovated. Medication cassette fill and deliver times staggered . Interim doses, missing meds, ward stock and Pyxis refill process adjusted. Interfaces link BDM Pharmacy (Centricity), Pyxis, TCG Rx ATP to BoxPicker. All medications are barcode verified on removal and restock of the BoxPicker to ensure correct selection from the box.

Project Leads

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