

Patient's Own Medication (POM) Project

A quality improvement project in General Surgery patients

CSHP 2015 Goal
your success story
most aligns with
Goal #1:

Increase the extent to which pharmacists help individual hospital inpatients achieve the best use of medications.

CSHP 2015
Objective
Highlighted
Objective 1.1:

In 100% of hospitals and related healthcare settings, pharmacists will ensure that medication reconciliation occurs during transitions across the continuum of care (admission, transfer and discharge).

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Background

Site: 9A, a General Surgery floor at the Victoria General Hospital, in Halifax, NS.

Healthcare team members involved:
Pharmacists, pharmacy students, physicians, and nurses

Rational and Objectives

To reduce drug costs and wastage for 9A in a sustainable model.

To save time for nursing, pharmacy, and medical staff in drug distribution and administration.

To increase patient satisfaction by allowing them to use familiar medications.

Methods

Patients were consented on admission to use their own multi-dose medications by nurses, pharmacists, or pharmacy students.

Non medically necessary natural health products (NHP) were discontinued by physicians. If patients wanted to continue NHPs, their own supply was used.

Nurses or pharmacists verified that the POM matched the physician order and checked the product expiry.



Evaluation

Data was obtained by evaluation forms, which were completed by pharmacy students and pharmacists.

32 patients had NHPs listed on their Best Possible Medication Histories (BPMH)

- 15 NHPs were discontinued

19 had multi-dose medications on their BPMHs

- 11 consented to use own supply
- Medication cost avoided for patients using own multi-dose medications: \$383.94.

The majority of patients were willing to use own multi-dose medications or to have NHPs discontinued while in hospital. This resulted in some cost avoidance and time savings. Given the success seen with small sample size, further patients are being recruited.

Future Directions

We are providing education to nurses and physicians in order to reaffirm the success of the project. We will also be working on a pre-printed order form for NHP that can be applied across Capital District Health Authority.