Increasing Safety with Bar Coded Medication Administration

Background

According to the United States Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, adverse drug events cause more than 770,000 injuries and deaths each year and may cost a hospital up to $5.6 million. Medication administration is a complex process and has an enormous impact on patient safety. Approximately 450,000 adverse drug events occur each year. Twenty-five percent of these events are preventable.

Purpose

Patient safety is at the forefront of Excela Health’s corporate goals and a top priority throughout our health system. Bar Coded Medication Administration (BCMA) provides a higher level of patient safety through the “5 Rights” verification. BCMA utilizes a closed loop system which decreases administration and transcription errors, improves quality, accuracy, and safety of patient care, facilitating improved outcomes.

Methods

- Creation of a detailed Project Charter and Statement of Work
- Careful formation of Inter-professional teams, each with specific personnel, objectives and key functions
- Innovative hands-on education plan
- Phased implementation strategy utilizing unit based super user support around the clock
- Real time individual and unit scanning compliance posted in each unit daily
- Ongoing monitoring of scanning compliance

Major Barriers and Solution

Monitoring

- Unit Level
  - Daily Unit/staff specific compliance reports sent to each unit manager for posting for first two weeks of Go Live
  - Then Weekly reports for one month
  - Then Monthly unit reports for 3 months
  - After 3 months unit specific reports only sent if below the 95% goal
- System/Facility Level
  - Monthly Compliance by unit and facility sent to Vice President of Clinical Services of each facility for two years
  - Currently quarterly reports by unit and facility are completed and data reported at the System Medication Safety Committee

Conclusion

Our implementation and continued success can be attributed to the inter-professional collaboration among the clinical informatics, pharmacy, information technology team, and nursing staff. The meticulous planning and preparation, innovative education plan, outstanding super users, timely staff feedback for scanning compliance, and a clearly defined process for medications that do not scan created were all instrumental in paving the path to success.

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