The Introduction of Automated Medication Management and Dispensing System with Omnicell
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Automated Medication Management and Dispensing Initiative

Letterkenny General Hospital (LGH) has led out on a technology based automated medication management and dispensing initiative (Omnicell) in a bid to deliver quality, safe care.

The Omnicell System has been implemented across the three new medical wards, the acute medical assessment unit, Emergency Dept and the Haematology/Oncology ward.
Drug Administration

The purpose of the implementation of Omnicell was to move from traditional Medicine trolleys and stock medication cupboards to a more user friendly and efficient method of drug administration.
Omnicell

- The Omnicell system is a secure drug storage unit on the ward, which communicates with a console in the pharmacy department.
- It interfaces with the Hospital inpatient management system (IPMS).
- Authorised users can only obtain drugs by accessing the system through biometric identification (finger print) or their user name and password.
Biometric Identification (finger print)

• Each staff nurse is set up with an account for a specific ward (Two fingerprints are taken from each staff member)

• Usernames and Passwords are issued on registration

• CNM authorises Staff member for access on each ward
Quality Assurance

- Drugs are listed on an integrated screen
- The person logged into the system is accountable for any drugs removed during this log in and for any discrepancies in administration
- All transactions are audited and all drug removals can be attributed to specific staff members
Stock Levels and Ordering

• Each ward has a predetermined stock level for each drug (with minimum 3 days supply)
• An automated order is generated daily to Pharmacy for reordering when stock reaches a minimum level
• This ensures that stock is always available and saves time on locating drugs duplicate ordering, waste and expiration
Stock/Inventory Control

- All activity on this system is recorded and the information is instantly available on the console in the pharmacy
- Audit of Medication use is now simplified

- Reports can be generated e.g. patient name, what drug/how many/who accessed and actual amount in stock
MDA Drug Accountability

- Controlled drugs may be stored in these systems but a second identification is required to access these drugs
- Manual checks of controlled Drugs are still being maintained but plans are in place to change policy for confirmation of inventory from Omnicell
Functionality-Guiding Light

- A Guiding Light shows the exact compartment of the drug required allowing for rapid and safe access
- Reduces the risks of medication errors
- It saves time allowing nurses to allocate more valuable time at the patient bedside, thus giving the patient a better experience in hospital
- The guiding light tool helps speed the restock process
- It saves the pharmacist time allowing them to spend more time reviewing patient’s drug charts, resulting in increased patient safety
- It protects the patient from medication errors and increases patient safety
Remote Medication Management

• Nurses have remote access to the Omnicell dispensing cabinet from any password-protected computer on the ward, if the system is already in use.

• The drug list is sent to the cabinet for the selected patients, allowing quick retrieval of medication as the selection process has already been done.

• This reduces the queuing time at the cabinets.

• This has led to a decrease in interruptions during medication administration compared to traditional method.
Benefits of Omnicell

For the Patient
- Medication Errors reduced
- Alerts and Warnings to prevent duplicate drug administration
- Time saving - releasing time to care
- Patient Safety

For the Nurse/Hospital
- Time saving
- Lean stock levels
- No Product Waste
- Data and Statistical Analysis
- Costs reduced
- Traceability of use of all Drugs
Evaluation of Omnicell

- Implemented 6 months on 3 of the Medical wards at LGH
- Queuing for cabinet-challenge
- Patient centred rather than drug round led
- Access for temporary nurses/moving ward
- Patient’s own Medication
- Change Process-resistance
Cost Savings

A recent report shows savings on average of 14% to 17% in 3 months compared to the same time frame last year.
Scope into the Future

- Expand to all wards in hospital
- Electronic Prescribing with Drug/PT ID scanning
- Allergy alerts
- Pain Score Audits
Thanks for Listening

• Any Questions

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