

Improving ScannED Medications

Medication errors can have serious consequences such as increased patient lengths of stay, additional medical interventions, serious harm or even death. Barcode medication verification (BMV) is a safety measure proven to prevent errors during medication administration.

Objective:

To improve the safety of medication administration and reduce errors within the Emergency Department (ED) by ensuring that medications are scanned using a BMV. A goal of 80% use of scanned barcode method was set.

Action Plan:

To ensure quality measures were improved among all ED RNs, this plan included:

- Education
- Peer-to-peer accountability
- Scanners added to mobile work stations
- Barcode labels added in Accudose system

Methods:

This initiative was reintroduced by ED leadership during June 2015 staff meetings. The Unit Council championed the initiative by posting scan rates within the department monthly, along with an accountability plan for those who did not meet the safety expectation. Data was collected for the rate of medications scanned and rate of patients scanned using reports available through the documentation system. No patient information was shared or used to collect data for this project.

Results/ Outcomes:

BMV scan rates within the ED increased with presentation of real-time data monthly and quantified quarterly. Individual low performers were counseled and re-educated.

Implications:

As this quality initiative continues, we predict that continued improvements will be made not only with BMV, but with medication administration as a whole, thereby increasing patient safety within the ED. The long term goal is to increase the scan rate benchmark by 90% or greater as individual metrics improve.

Maury Regional Health is a not-for-profit regional health system serving southern Middle Tennessee. Maury Regional Medical Center in Columbia serves as the flagship hospital for the system. The facility includes 255 beds and a growing medical staff of more than 200 physicians.

SCAN RATES IN ED

	Medication	Patient
July 2015 - Sept 2015	51	53
Oct 2015 - Dec 2015	56	59
Jan 2016 - March 2016	66	67
Apr 2016 - June 2016	66	68
July 2016 - Sept 2016	62	64
Nov-16	75	78
Dec-16	84	86
Jan-17	89	90
Feb-17	89	91
Mar-17	91	92
Apr-17	93	94
May-17	93	94



**MAURY REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

Presented by Amanda Cothran, BSN, RN, CEN
Clinical Nurse Educator, Emergency Department