



Chance to Check is an initiative to highlight the importance of the administration of medications.

Introduction

Due to many contributing factors the task of administering medications is not always given the time and concentration required to get it right every time. Although there are policies and procedures, analysis from incident reporting has shown that these are not always followed. The staff who do not follow the appropriate process often have reasons why they have chosen not to do this. Although these reasons are justified in their minds, they are actually violations of policy and can be difficult to account for following a medication incident.

Raising Awareness

Part of the Chance to Check initiative is to raise awareness and provoke discussion amongst nurses as to what practice is acceptable. We sometimes assume others do tasks in the same way we do ourselves, but only when discussing the detail of the task do we discover that in fact there are differences. This allows us to identify what we feel should be a standard approach and what differences are acceptable.

Focused approach

By identifying 4 key statements that each nurse should ask herself/himself, attention is focused on these elements. The idea is that each nurse must learn what these 4 key questions are so that at the time of each administration it can become an automatic part of the process. Reminder cards can be used in the initial stages until the process becomes normal practice.

Time

The 'Chance to Check' initiative also promotes the idea that you must take the time required to get this task correct. Take this chance to do the right checks. In other healthcare processes we have introduced something called a 'pause' where the team stop what they are doing before a critical stage to ensure all the correct components are in place before it is too late. This is the same idea but is done internally by the nurse. There is no additional paperwork, just the encouragement to adopt a different way of working.

Content

The key statements are as follows:

- ✓ The patient's name band matches the kardex
- ✓ The patient verbally confirms their name if possible
- ✓ I know what this drug is
- ✓ This drug and dose is suitable for this patient (not out of the ordinary)

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