

Patient Specific Medications

Author(s): Samantha Bruun

Project Team: Michelle Smith, Lacey Yasinski, Randi Karlson, Bodil Schoendorfer

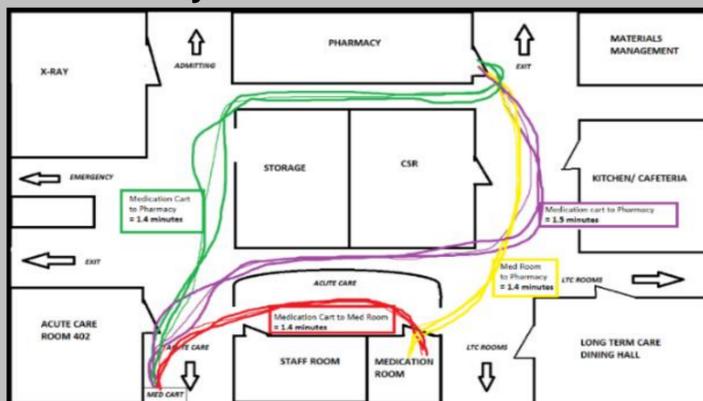
Project Background

The Manning hospital is supported by the Peace River hospital (1 hour distance) for all medication requests. This project was performed at the Manning hospital within the Acute Care department that provides 10 beds which currently have 2 nurses on each shift (2 shifts/24 hours). The nursing staff raised a concern that they do not have sufficient time to finish their daily tasks. This includes charting, restocking of med room supplies, and patient care. The one task that nursing found challenging is the picking of all Acute Care patient specific medications on a daily basis.

Goal Statement

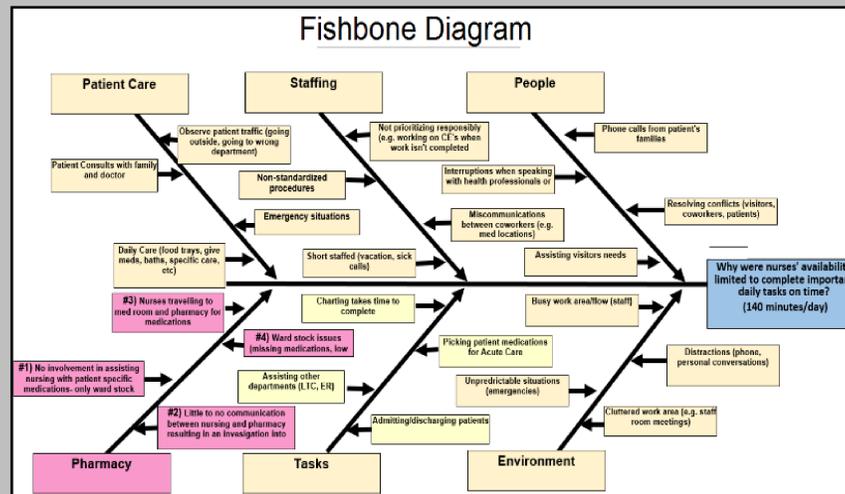
Reduce nurse's time on hand picking patient medications from 140 minutes to 30 minutes, by May 31st, 2019. This will give nurses enough time to complete high-priority tasks, such as patient care.

For nursing to retrieve medication there are **3 primary areas**: Medication cart, medication room and the Pharmacy. The spaghetti diagram is color coded to specify different paths one nurse could take to retrieve the medications and the time it takes from each area (data collected by team). So if it takes an average of 5 minutes (historically collected data) to fill 1 patient drawer with the addition of travelling to both the medication room and the pharmacy that is an average of **14 minutes/patient** which gives us the average of **140 minutes/day for a site that carries 10 beds.**



The Method

Using a fish bone diagram, our team and the Nursing staff agreed to focus on the **pharmacy aspect** of the nurse's concerns. Other areas such as the environment and staffing is primarily nurse's responsibility, but we as a team knew we could assist with the pharmacy perspective since this is a shared job between both departments and a majority of my team was coming into this project with a pharmacy background.



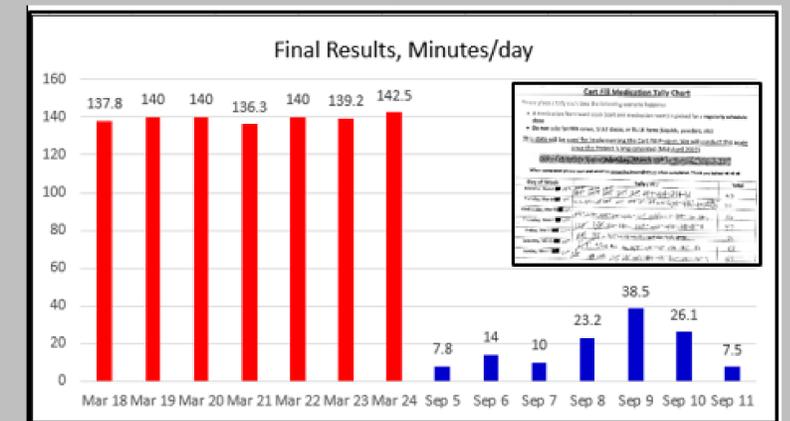
We started **brainstorming** different ways that Pharmacy could assist nursing with medications such as:

1. Increasing ward stock amounts in the medication room
2. Stocking more common medications on the med cart
3. Running medication strips similar for the Long Term Care patients by supporting site.
4. Create the cart fill process for Acute Care (pharmacy would supply each patient's medication and place in the patient's drawer).

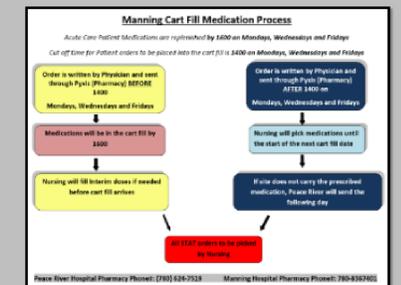
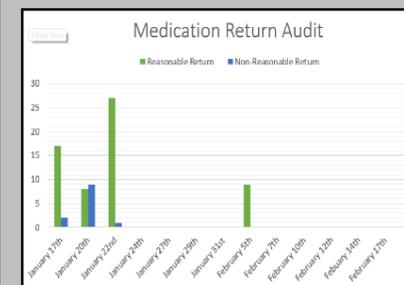
The team concluded that option #4 was the most ideal. We then strategized on staffing concerns, processes, and future changes with both nursing and pharmacy.

The Results

After implementation the nurse's time on handpicking medications decreased from an average of **140 minutes/day to 18.2 minutes/day**. The result for nursing's task was reduced by an average of **53 medications/ day to 6 medications/day**.



A medication algorithm was created for the nursing staff to refer to when needed. A medication return audit was also completed by the Pharmacy Technician on site.



Conclusion

- Nursing's tasks are being completed on time.
- Pharmacy and Nursing have a stronger work relationship with increased communication.
- Medication errors are reduced with the addition of Pharmacy services being involved in patient specific medications

