Nitroglycerin Administration Trim Project

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Sublingual nitroglycerin (SLNTG) is the first line drug of choice most commonly prescribed for chest pain and or in combination with morphine and oxygen (Gallagher, 2010). Early recognition and management is essential to reduce patient’s mortality and improve patient’s outcome.

In 2014, the staff of MS5 (Medical Surgical 5) identified SLNTG was not available in the Pyxis 63% of the time during some of the chest pain rapid response. This lead to delays in patient receiving much needed treatment and also cost the unit over $253.88 over a 3 month period due to lost SLNTG.

A T.R.I.M. (lean methodology) project was designed in collaboration with Pharmacy and Performance Improvement departments. By identifying barriers, streamlining dispensing process and bar-coding technology, SLNTG was dispensed only 3 pills at a time rather than a bottle.

Cost of administration went from $253.88 to $0.00 dollars lost.

As a result of MS5’s success, this innovative process was implemented hospital wide, on May 24, 2016, featured as a HH Magnet Designation story and presented at the Patient Safety Symposium in 2016.

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References
