

An Evaluation of Collaborative Nurse-Pharmacist Intervention for Improving the Medication Reconciliation Process: Impact on Patient Safety

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Abstract

The medication reconciliation process is critical to ensuring the safety of hospitalized patients. Obtaining a comprehensive and accurate home medication list on admission is integral to the reconciling process for hospitalized patients. Nurses and pharmacists each bring unique skills and knowledge to medication management. Collaboration between nurses and pharmacists in collection of the medication history, identification of high risk patients, and follow up with physicians and other members of the healthcare team will be critical to improving medication safety. The purpose of this study is to test the effect of a novel, collaborative nurse-pharmacist intervention on obtaining accurate medication and allergy histories. This two-phase study will examine the effect of targeted education for practicing nurses and nursing students conducted by a pharmacist/nurse team. This education will focus on the use of research-based strategies for efficiently eliciting an accurate medication history. Emphasis will be placed on collaborative pharmacist-nurse strategies to optimize the process of collecting medication data and acting on key findings, such as the potential for adverse drug reactions. We will also be evaluating the usefulness of a systems-based, structured medication-history data collection tool to be used by the nurse in collecting the medication history. Results can be shared with both practicing clinicians, and integrated in the training of nurses and pharmacists to affect change with current and future clinicians.