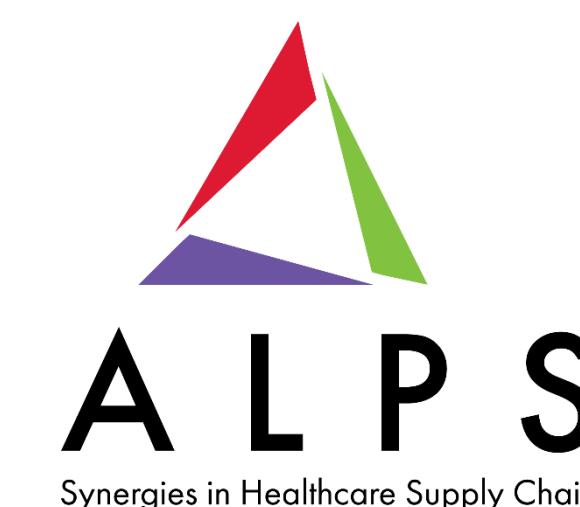




To reduce incident of expiring or expired medication being kept at ward stock

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Introduction

For the past two years, expiring or expired drugs in wardstock have been picked up by nurses or pharmacists during daily operations and quarterly audits. This workflow change is aimed to reduce the chance of having expiring or expired drugs at wardstock to minimize the risk of expired drugs being administered to patients.

Methodology

1. Every 3rd week of the month, ALPS staff generates list of expiring (expiry date < 3 months and < 6 months) drugs.

2. ALPS staff pastes orange 'expiring soon' labels on those expiring less than 6 months.



"Expiring soon"
SALBUTAMOL SULF
100MCG INH 200D



"Expiring soon"
HYOSCINE N-
BUTYLBROMIDE
10MG TAB



"Expiring soon"
GLYCERYL TRINIT
S/L 0.5MG TAB
30's

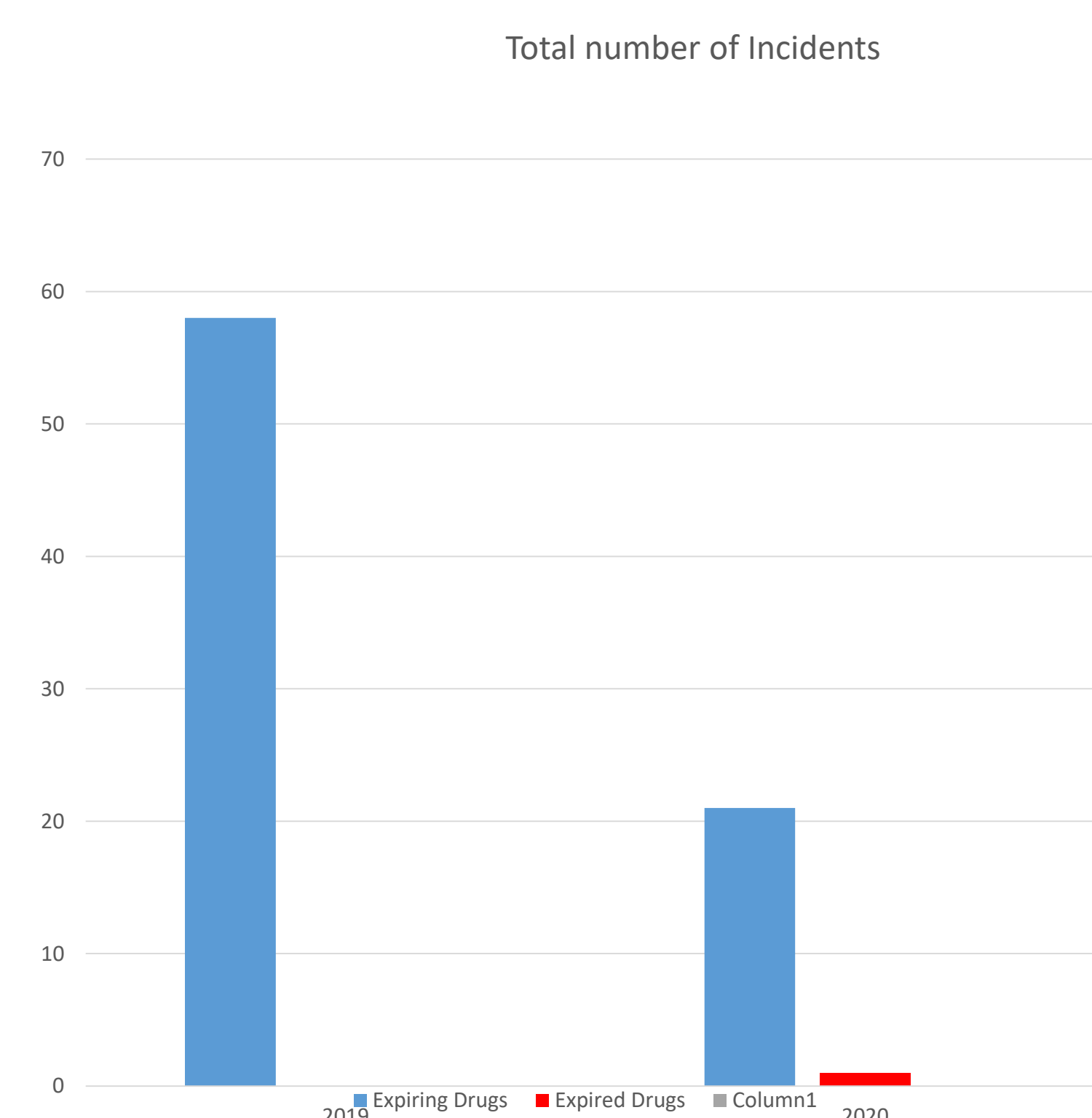
3. ALPS staff removes drugs that are expiring in less than 3 months and places them in quarantine back at warehouse. Once these drugs are expired, ALPS will discard them on behalf of the wards.

4. After the monthly clean up, ALPS staff continues to do housekeeping at wards once a week and remove any drugs that are expiring or expired but mistakenly placed cabinets by others.

Results & Discussion

After implementing the change, there was a noticeable reduction in expiring drugs being found at wardstock. The number of cases fell from 59 in 2019 to 21 in 2020. The cause of expiring drugs still being found may be attributed to a few reasons, not relating to ALPS workflow.

There was an incident of expired drug being found in 2020 as the drug was a fridge item and was overlooked by ALPS staff. Appropriate corrective action and training has been carried out and since then, there has not been a similar incident.



Conclusion

The change of workflow has shown good results in reducing incidents of expiring drugs found at wardstock and should be continuously carried out. Appropriate training will be given to all ALPS staff to allow familiarization on workflow to achieve even better results in the following years.