

MEDICATION CART FOR ED DURING COVID-19 CASES SURGE

BACKGROUND

With the massive influx of patients at SKH ED during the Covid-19 surge period, many have to wait for medications to be administered. This can result in delays in treatment plans. Nursing and Pharmacy Store team worked together to tackle this issue.

OBJECTIVE

To increase productivity for the ED team and reduce wait time for patients with additional and faster medication supplies route.

METHODOLOGY

In the current workflow, nurses withdraw medications from Automated Medication Cabinet (AMC) located inside Isolation Area Clean Utility (ISO CU) which requires de-gown and de-glove to enter. After retrieving the medications, nurses have to gown-up and glove-up before returning to the Fever Screening Area (FSA) where Covid-19 patients are situated for consultation and treatment.

Nursing and Pharmacy teams identified 16 critical, frequently ordered medications by doctors. These drugs were placed in the medication cart in FSA. With this, nurses can immediately retrieve the medications. The team worked quickly to implement the Med Cart in March 2022.

RESULT

The gap between time ordered by doctors to time dispensed of medications by nurses has reduced to less than 1hr. Hence, the medication cart initiative has increased staff efficacy without compromising patients' safety.

CONCLUSION

In the state of pandemic, there were many unforeseen circumstances that may impact the daily operational workflows, staff efficacy, intended outcome of patients' treatment plans and hospital cost. Thus, this initiative has benefited various stakeholders while still maintaining the quality care patients deserve.

