



## **Scheduled Medication Administration Times- "Giving Nurses the Gift of Time"**

J. Vickie Elliott, BSN,CCRN-CSC  
Co-presenter: Roxie Shortt-Lewis, BSN

### **Abstract**

Our team utilized Lean/DMAIC tools to identify the reason nurses spend an excessive amount of time administering medications. Baseline data collection showed that a nurse spends 18 minutes per medication pass and 15% of all medication passes are unnecessary. The average medical patient had 4.2 scheduled medication passes on day shift (SD= 2.48) and 2.1 medication passes on night shift (SD= 1.4). The Standard Medication Administration Time policy was revised and approved by the PNT committee. To facilitate pharmacy and nursing education, a learning packet was created to provide guidance on medication scheduling and rescheduling. Education began with department directors, managers and clinical supervisors and then expanded to nursing staff meetings and department meetings. As a result of this project, 90% of unnecessary medication passes were removed. In addition, 83% of unnecessary medication passes were removed from the hours of 2200-0600. Baseline data showed an average of 0.86 unnecessary medication passes per patient day. A calculation of savings utilizing an average census and the average nursing hourly wage resulted in a daily savings of \$1,454 and an annual savings of \$530,000.