Interoperability between EMR and Medication Dispensing Cabinet-Nursing Workflow Impact

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Problem Statement: Nursing has interacted with Automated Dispensing Medication Cabinet's (ADC) in the hospital workflow for many years. Lines form at the cabinets at medication times as nurses wait their turn to request scheduled medications as they interface directly with the cabinet. **Methods:** Interoperability between the EMR and ADC now allows remote requests for the needed medications directly from the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) allowing the medications to be ready at the cabinet as nursing arrives. **Results:** Implementation in our facility has demonstrated many positive outcomes as evidenced by pre and post implementation metrics. Outcomes include: 1. Improved nursing workflow and efficiency as medications for multiple patients can be requested remotely prior to going to the cabinet, eliminating queuing at the cabinet with the formation of lines of nurses waiting; 2. Increased nursing satisfaction due to fewer steps to access a medication when remote request is used; 3. Increased safety for patients as integration between ADC and EMR allows the same data to appear in the EMR as at the ADC; 4. Reduction in nursing time spent on controlled substance counting and discrepancy resolution; 5. Improved efficiency of Medication Administration Process that allows remote request of multiple patients at one time. Additional efficiency has been gained by allowing nurses to remote over-ride requesting, waste documentation, identification of where a medication is available when out of stock at the closest cabinet and account maintenance directly in the EMR rather than at the cabinet or by a database administrator. **Significance:** While the ADC initially assisted with pharmacy workflow and efficiency as well as patient safety, interoperability now improves safety as well as shares that workflow efficiency with nursing.