Spanning the Bridge to Patient Safety Through Medication Bar Code Scanning in the Emergency Department (ED) Setting

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Spanning the Bridge to Patient Safety
Through Medication Bar Code Scanning in the Emergency Department (ED) Setting
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Overview:
Point of care medication bar code scanning successfully utilized on inpatient units within an academic, community Magnet™ hospital since 2003
- Inpatient bar code compliance rate of 98%
- Sustained decrease in medication errors results in improved patient safety

Implementation:
**Multidisciplinary Team:**
All stakeholders involved from the beginning is key!
- ED nursing leadership and staff nurses
- Nursing Director of Emergency Services
- Nursing Informatics Systems Specialist
- Information Services
- Administrator of Emergency Services
- ED Physician or Physician Assistant (PA)
- Director of Pharmacy

Following a successful go-live, the team scaled back to unit management, staff nurses, Nursing Informatics, Information Services, a PA and pharmacy representation

**Workflow Challenges:**
Utilize workflow observations to determine issues unique to the ED setting:
- Limited physical space for equipment
- Equipment needs – carts, laptops, scanners
- Computerized Physician Order Entry compliance
- Staff engagement
- Perceived increase in ED LOS

**Bi-monthly Team Meetings:**
Essential for developing process and strategizing for best mode of delivery in ED setting - Considerations:
- Verify all meds/IVs in ED automated dispensing machine; stock items bar-coded and to be scanned against orders
- Budget equipment costs
- Installation of equipment
- Educate management and super user staff
- Stagger rollouts to allow for adequate support staff during go-live
- Plan to scan all non-emergent medications

**Future Plans:**
- Discuss lessons learned to improve next implementation
- Monitor individual and unit compliance on a monthly basis - Share findings with administration, unit management and staff
- Implement bar code scanning of medications and intravenous fluids at the other ED sites in our health network
- Investigate other scanner options due to limited physical space in ED

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**Inpatient bar code compliance rate of 98% since 2003 inpatient units within an academic, community Magnet™ hospital**

**Point of care medication bar code scanning successfully utilized on R**

**through Medication Bar Code Scanning in the Emergency Department (ED) Setting**

**Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA**

**LVHN Harmful Medication Error Rate**

**Harmful Medication Error Rate (FY03 - Present)**

**Workflow Challenges:**
- ED Physician or Physician Assistant (PA)
- Administrator of Emergency Services
- Information Services
- Director of Pharmacy

**Future Plans:**
- Implement bar code scanning of medications and intravenous fluids
- Monitor individual and unit compliance on a monthly basis
- Discuss lessons learned to improve next implementation