MEDICATION SAFETY IN PRIMARY CARE
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UNIQUE FEATURES IN PRIMARY CARE

➢ Physical space, equipment and resources
➢ Funding models
➢ Governance
➢ Care model (Health centre, FHT, alternative funding models, fee for service)
➢ Care locations: Rural/urban, walk-in clinics, emergency rooms, long term care, hospitalists, Collaborative emergency centres
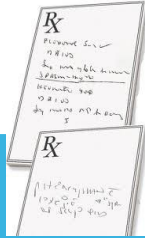
Kingston-Riecher's et al (2010)

ISSUES

➢ Medication sampling
➢ Maintenance of medication lists
➢ Drug coverage
➢ Drug interaction programs
➢ Polypharmacy
➢ Frail Elderly
➢ Communication between providers

ISSUES

- ➢ Allergy documentation
- ➢ Patient adherence
- ➢ OTC medications/ holistic remedies
- ➢ Public education (taking family member's medication, non-prescribed meds)
- ➢ Hand writing
- ➢ Instructions
- ➢ Access
- ➢ Time!

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SOLUTIONS

- ➢ Teams
- ➢ Electronic Medical Records
- ➢ Drug Information Systems
- ➢ Medication samples

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TEAMS

- ➢ Two or more people involved in care
- ➢ Building on strengths
- ➢ Increased capacity
- ➢ Improved access

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TEAMS

- ➢ Role clarity
- ➢ Optimized Scope of Practice
- ➢ Highly integrated team
- ➢ Communication strategy (team meetings, consistency, standards)
- ➢ Focus on team education/ competency development
- ➢ Development of systems to support guidelines based care
- ➢ Focus on patient safety, quality and quality improvement

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ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS

- ➢ Legible
- ➢ Accurate, time stamped information
- ➢ Medication lists
- ➢ Easy access to history
- ➢ Automatic cross check for interactions/allergies
- ➢ Searchability: recalled medications

Caution: defaults and drop down lists

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DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS

"A drug information system is a tool that enables authorized health care providers to access, manage, share and safeguard patients' medication histories. A component of an electronic health record (EHR) system, a drug information system supports the storage and retrieval of patient prescription and medication information, and may provide application services supporting dispensing activities such as drug-usage evaluation."

https://www.infoway-inforoute.ca/index.php/programs-services/certification-services/what-infoway-certifies/drug-information-systems-dis

DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS: BENEFITS

➢ Increased Provider productivity 32%
➢ Improved Drug cost management 10%
➢ Reduction in Adverse Drug Events 20%
➢ Reduced Prescription Abuse 16%
➢ Improved Patient compliance 21%

https://www2.infoway-inforoute.ca/Documents/dis/DIS_GEN_2_Study_Executive_Summary_en.pdf

DRUG SAMPLES

➢ Secure storage
➢ Ensure regular review
➢ Provide thorough patient education
➢ Ensure age-related quality and security
➢ Properly dispose of unused samples
➢ Arranged systematically by classification

http://www.wrha.mb.ca/professionals/familyphysicians/files/PCOG14MedStorage.pdf

DRUG SAMPLE LABELING

➢ Patient name and date
➢ Reason for the medication
➢ Amount and frequency
➢ Special precautions (How and when)
➢ Any significant side effects
➢ Reconstitution instructions (if applicable)

http://www.ismp.org/newsletters/ambulatory/archives/200703_1.asp

AND MORE SOLUTIONS....

➢ Accreditation process/ quality assurance (culture of quality)
➢ Integrated reconciliation process
➢ Adverse drug reaction reporting systems
➢ Patient records (self-management)
➢ More research

ISMP: Medication records
http://www.knowledgeisthebestmedicine.org/index.php/en/

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