

Preventing high-risk medicine incidents in rehabilitation wards – An advanced technician medicines safety initiative

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Background

High-risk medicines (APINCH) account for a significant number of medicine-related incident reports at our hospital. The digital prescribing system presents opportunities for improved medicines safety, however the prescribing of high alert medicines can be complex and the opportunity for error high.

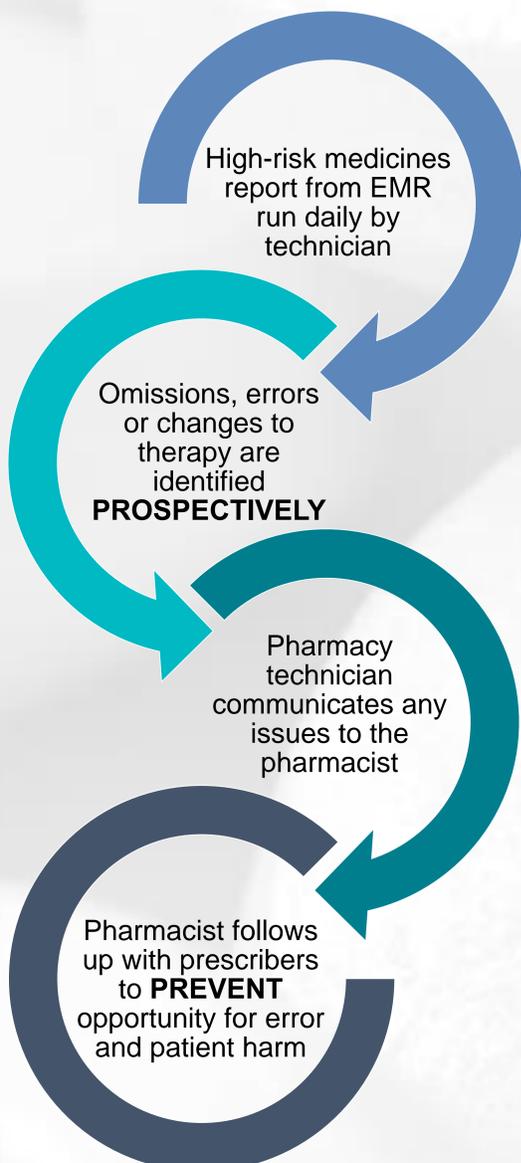
Advanced-scope technicians play an important role in supporting and delivering care to patients. At a digital, greenfield, metropolitan hospital, an advanced-scope technician role was established to support rehabilitation and geriatric patients. A daily responsibility includes running a high-risk drug screen to identify dose omissions and suboptimal prescribing practice.



Objectives

- 1 Prospectively identify opportunities for error
- 2 Reduce the occurrence of high-risk medicine (APINCH) incidents in the rehabilitation and geriatric wards
- 3 Support prescribers with the complex prescribing requirements of these medicines within the electronic medical record.

Action

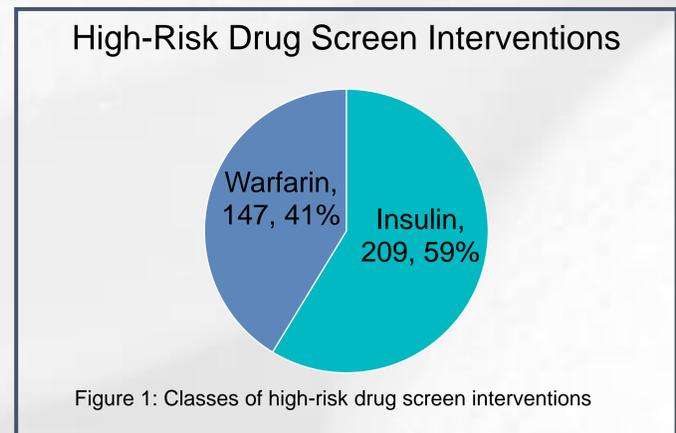


Evaluation

The rehabilitation pharmacy technician records the interventions made. Over a three month period (July, August and September 2022),

the rehabilitation pharmacy technician identified and communicated 356 potential medicine issues, equating to approximately 5.6 interventions per day.

All of the interventions were related to warfarin or insulin.



The types of interventions made included:

Dose omissions n=301 (84.55%)	Multiple dose checks charted n=37 (10.39%)	No dose check charted n=6 (1.69%)
	Duplicate orders n=8 (2.25%)	Dose change flagged n=3 (0.85%)
		Not charted in correct way (i.e. Powerplan) n=1 (0.28%)

Discussion

This practice highlights the important role advanced-scope technicians play in medicines management and patient safety initiatives. Given the success to date, we are looking at expanding the scope to our surgical stream. With the wide-scale rollout of a digital medication record within Australia Hospitals, this initiative has potential to be adopted on a larger scale.

