Prescribing and Medication Communication on the Post Take Ward Round

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Background

- Post Take Ward Rounds\textsuperscript{1,2}
  - Review of each newly admitted patient
  - Diagnosis
  - Investigations
  - Treatment

- Prescribing in hospitals:
  - Complex\textsuperscript{3}
  - Often sub-optimal\textsuperscript{3}
  - Poor prescribing \rightarrow patient harm\textsuperscript{4}

\textsuperscript{1} Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. SHPA Standards of Practice for Clinical Pharmacy Services. Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research. 2013;43(2).
Aim

In the setting of the internal medicine PTWRs, this study aims to describe:

- Medication related communication between MOs,
- Medication decisions made,
- The extent to which decisions are implemented,
- Whether discussions focused on medications with higher risk of harm.
Methods

- Observational, prospective, cohort study
- Medication related communication was observed during daily internal medical PTWRs over a 6-week period.

1. Patient Demographics
2. Medication related discussions:
   - “Minimal Medication Discussion”
   - “In-depth Medication Discussion”
3. Medications: high or low risk of medication related harm
4. Medical Officer Level

Eg. Registrar: “Mr Smith is taking metoprolol 50mg each morning”
Eg. Registrar: “Mr Smith is taking metoprolol 50mg each morning, he is experiencing some dizziness and therefore I think we should withhold this medication for a few days”
Consultant: “let’s stop it for now and monitor his blood pressure”
Results

Patient Cohort
Patients = 130
Medications = 1244

Nil Medication communication OR handover
Patients = 4*
Medications = 433*

Medication Communication OR handover
Patients = 126
Medications = 811

Minimal Medication Discussion
Patients = 26
Medications = 685

In-depth Medication Discussion
Patients = 100
Medications = 126
Discussions = 249
Results: Medical Officer Level

All Medication related discussions (N = 811)

- Intern
- Consultant
- Registrar

“In-depth” Medication related discussions (N = 249)

- Identified Issue
- Resolution Suggested
- Resolution Confirmed
- Actioned

- Consultant
- Registrar
- Intern
Next Steps