



CASE STUDY

Aspen Ward

LOCATING THE PATIENTS DRUG CHARTS

Problem:

The team on Aspen Ward - Nurses, Doctors, Pharmacists and Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) were finding locating the patients Drug Chart a problem; this was often a challenge when the patient needed analgesic medications.

All team members described their frustration; the amount of time and effort spent looking for the Drug Chart. Each individual was 'returning' the Drug Chart to where they thought it should be! This turned out to be any number of different places – the medical notes or on the notes trolley, the patients nursing notes stored in the bays, in the doctors office, or with the ward PA.

This situation was thought to be delaying medication administration, with nurses needing to 'search' for the Drug Chart prior to the medication round. As well as leading to delays in medication review/reconciliation by the pharmacist or on the consultant ward round, potentially leading to discharge delays.

Solution:

The Team agreed to identify a 'home' for the Drug Charts. Several suggestions were made but it was agreed to pilot the Drug Trolley in each bay as the Drug Chart 'home'. Staff were encouraged to return the Drug Chart, prompted with briefings at the morning boardround and catch up, along with laminated reminder posters on the notes trollies, in the doctor's office and a clear sign on each of the Drug Trollies.

Outcomes and benefits:

The team, across all disciplines, has embraced the pilot and encouraged other visitors to the ward to return the Drug Chart after use to its 'home'.

Staff have noticed a real difference, with less time spent looking for the Drug Chart. When the Drug chart is not 'home' it is in most cases being used by a member of the team and can be easily located.

Drug Charts are now readily available for each medication round or when a patient requires additional medication or analgesia.

As a pilot, the team had expected to trial other locations for the Drug Chart 'home', however, compliance has been so good, no further or additional location tests have been required after the first week of embedding the change.



Change Champions: Dawn Reeves-Turner, Ward Manager Aspen, Lyn Woollan, Deputy Ward Manager Aspen, Antonia Iyio, Pharmacist, Paul Murray, Consultant, Respiratory Medicine, The Junior Doctor Team, The Nursing Team

