Implementation of the Electronic Prescribing Systems

NHS
The Princess Alexandra Hospital
NHS Trust

Project aim

The purpose of the Medicines Management Project was to successfully implement the Electronic Medicines Prescribing and Administration system (EPMA) and the Chemotherapy Management System (CMS) to improve patient safety and medicines management processes

Project team

Sunjalee Fernando – Lead EPMA/CMS Pharmacist/Project Manager
Joseph Grayson – Lead EPMA Senior Technician
Thomas James – Lead CMS Senior Technician
Saritha Prathipati – Medicines Management Matron
Towela Silwamba – Senior EPMA/CMS Technician
Rita Coelho – Senior EPMA Nurse

Timeline for delivery

From: January 2016   **To:** Ongoing

Measures

- To improve patient safety
- To engage staff in embedding safe, efficient and sustainable medicines management processes through the use of electronic prescribing
- Deliver part of the Hospital Pharmacy Transformation Programme and meet Carter Report to have implemented electronic prescribing by April 2020
- Introduce appropriate new IT hardware in the clinical areas
- To deliver forecasted project savings

Results

- All areas of the hospital live with electronic prescribing except outpatients
- Reduced time doctors, nurses and pharmacists spend on organising paper drug charts (e.g. transcribing, re-validation etc.)
- Dashboard created for ED to allow nurses to view administrations due in the next 2 hours
- Implementation of electronic prescribing systems has enabled the team to meet demands of reports being generated for specific specialities e.g. anticoagulants

Tests for change

- Continue to monitor and reduce serious incidences related to medicines
- Improve clinical decision support and a closed loop prescription process
- Benefits tracking to monitor where savings have been made through implementation of electronic prescribing system
  - Reduce ordering of paper drug charts
  - Reduced prescribing of non formulary drugs
  - Aid in the switching of more cost effective drugs or routes

Learning and next steps

- EPMA team are working alongside the trusts IT team to upgrade current infrastructure to Windows 10 to reduce time taken to carry out administration rounds
- EPMA team are currently working with Quality First team to implement IV fluid workflow onto the electronic prescribing system
- EPMA are now a beta testing site for both electronic prescribing systems from JAC

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