

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON SAFE MEDICATION PRACTICES

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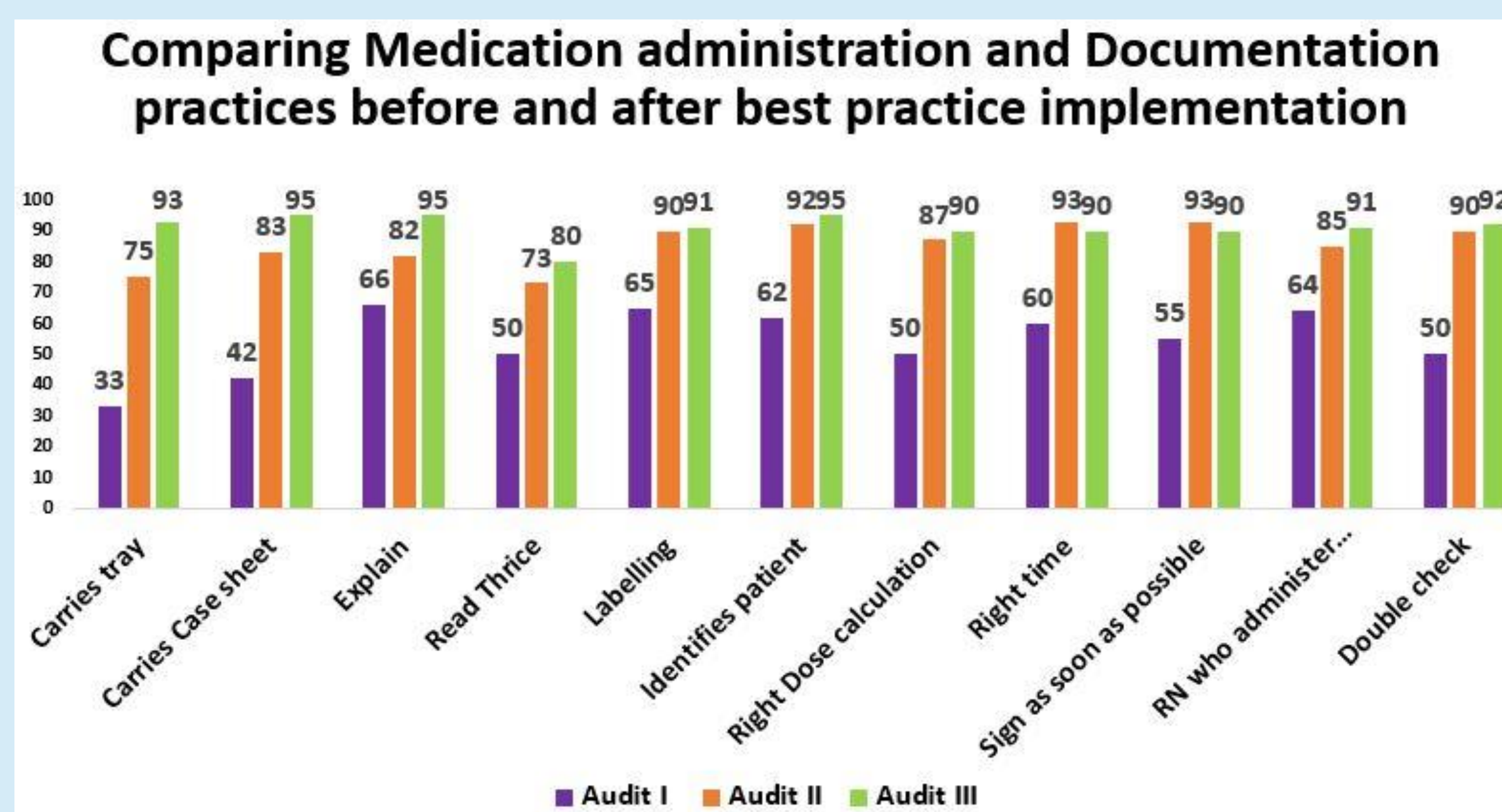
INTRODUCTION

Patient safety is a common goal for every healthcare provider. Of which, Medication safety is one of the topmost priority. Medication errors are preventable errors that occur in Hospitals which may lead to severe harm, disability and even death. Nurses who play a pivotal role in Medication administration must follow safe medication administration practices in every possible situation. Hence, to prevent & reduce the occurrence of medication errors, we have Initiated a Medication administration Quality Improvement Project at our hospital.

AIM

- To assess the existing practices related to medication administration and documentation.
- To implement best practices in prescribing, transcribing, dispensing, administration, and documentation of medication.
- To reassess medication administration and documentation practices after implementing best practices

RESULTS



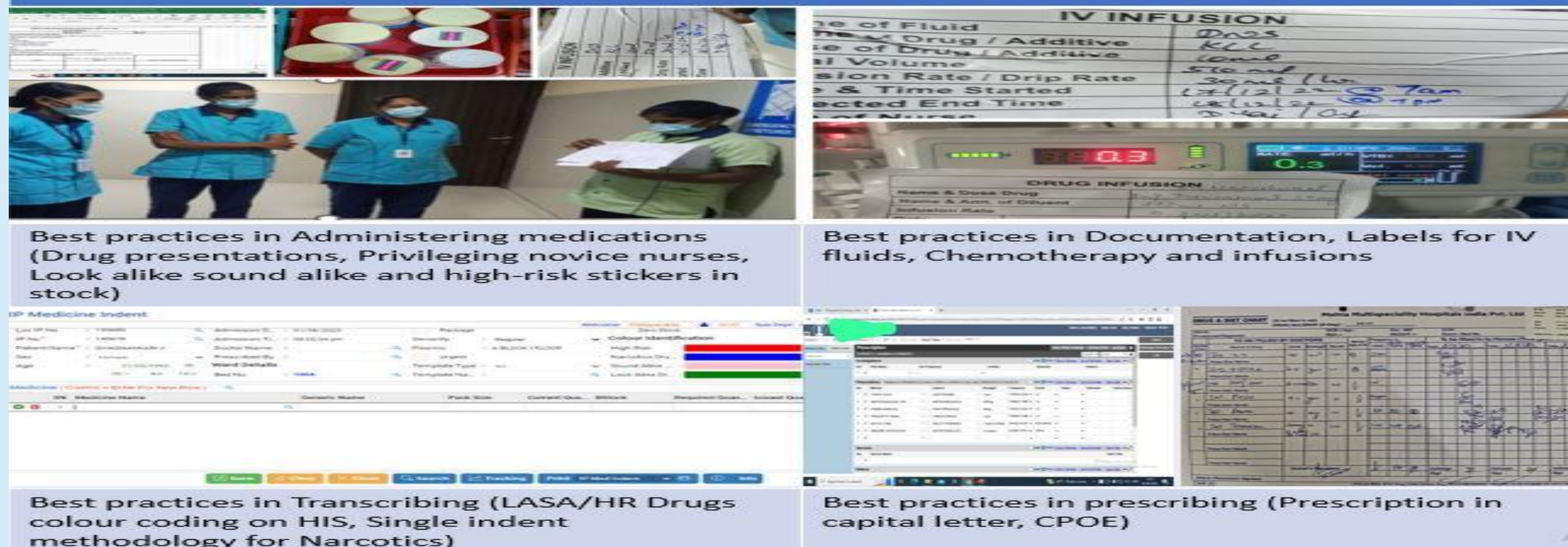
Over all Medication Administration and Documentation Practices of Nurses Before and after Best Practices Implementation			
Scoring Criteria	Pre Audit	Post Implementation Audit	
	Jan to Mar 2021	Oct to Dec 2021	June to Aug 2022
Adequate practice (75-100%)	63.75%	87.5%	93.5%
Moderately adequate practice (50-74 %)	5%	12.5%	6.5%
Inadequate practice (< 50%)	31.25%	0	0

Association of Demographic Variables with Medication Administration and Documentation Practices						
Audits	Qualification		Years of Experience			
	Diploma in Nursing	Baccalaureate of Nursing	< 1 Years	1-3 Years	> 3-5 Years	> 5 years
I Audit (Pre-intervention)	64	72	60	63	52	50
II audit (post-intervention)	86	78	80	78	68	70
III Audit (post-intervention)	94	90	94	92	88	82

Comparing Nursing Outcome Before and after Best Practices Implementation

Incidents Category	2021 (Incidence)	2022 (Incidence)	2023 (Incidence)
Administration Error	50	20	19
Documentation Error	11	19	7

Best Practices Implemented



METHOD

Design	Descriptive study design
Setting	Wards and ICUs of Mehta Multispeciality Hospitals.
Population	All Nurses working in wards and critical care units
Sampling technique	Convenient sampling technique. The auditor randomly chose the nurse to be observed.
Sample size	Jan to Mar 2021 – 160 Nurses, Oct to Dec 2021 – 160 Nurses, June to Aug 2022 – 219 Nurses
Tool	Demographic details and an Observational checklist with 11 criteria were framed and validated by experts
Data collection procedure	3 audits were conducted, 1 in 2021 before implementing best practices and 2 audits after implementing best practices at the end of 2021 and 2022. The ward and ICU incharges were the auditors who were assigned to observe in other units apart from their own.
Scoring procedure	for the demographic details, no scoring was allocated. The minimum score an individual can score is 0 and the maximum is 11, the score was interpreted as : 75-100% - Adequate medication practices, 50-74% - Moderately adequate medication practices and < 50% - Inadequate Medication practices

CONCLUSIONS

Our initial audit helped us to Identify potential and actual medication errors at different stages, these findings gave us an urge to learn and implement best practices starting from medication prescription to medication documentation. These ongoing audits and best practices, Introduction enabled the reduction of preventable medication errors. We were able to see improved practices at the bedside (63% – 93%). We also observed that the overall **Incidence of medication Errors** had **reduced as per Set Benchmarks. Double check / HIS Alerts /Top-down Proactive Approach** – has become a Culture of the Nursing team.

The **Introduction of HIS controls**, CPOE, Drug presentations, Incidental teaching, Labels, Colour codings (LASA and HR drugs) **Reinforcement sessions**, and **clinical supervision by senior Nurse leaders** played a major role in Ensuring drug safety and thus helped in Safe Medication administration practices which ultimately reduced our Incidences of Medication Errors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- We would like to thank the entire Nurse Leadership Team for doing the Audits unbiasedly and for the improved reporting and transparency culture which the display
- Would like to thank our Bedside Nurses for adopting the Best Practice initiatives positively and joining Hands in promoting Medication Safety
- Heartfelt thanks to our Management for supporting us with technical and Financial support in the introduction of best practices
- Thank the following healthcare team members – Doctors, Clinical pharmacists, pharmacists IT and stores.

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