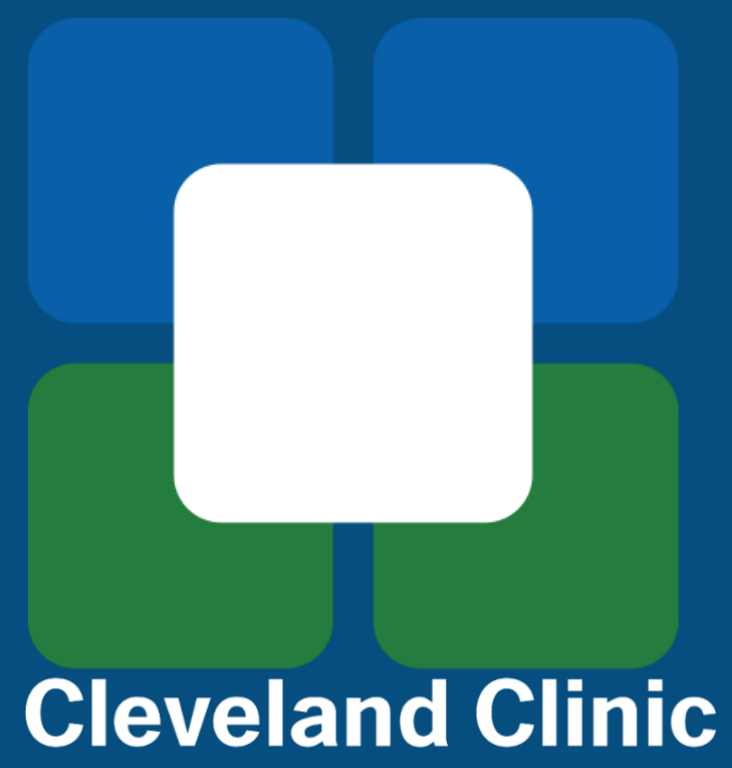




Improved management of medication syringes for parturient with labor epidural

Yuta Kashiwagi, MD¹, Arthur Calimaran, MD², Monica Cheriyan, MD, MPH².
Department of Anesthesiology¹, Department of Obstetric Anesthesiology²
Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH

Background

Medication syringes were previously locked in epidural carts. They were used for taking care of breakthrough pain and hemodynamic changes. Patient stickers are attached to all the syringes but they look alike.

There were potential risk/issue of...

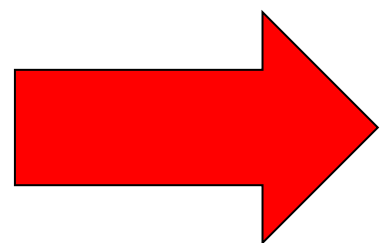
- Use for wrong patients
- Cart with medications may be in use for different patient
- Inappropriate opioid management

Updated Management

•All the bolus syringes to be placed in the locked epidural PCA box in each patient room. A novel use of an empty space in the box.



Epidural cart



Epidural PCA box

Benefit of this change

- Avoiding misuse of the syringes for wrong patients
- Anesthesia providers do not have to search for a correct syringe from the epidural cart, time and safety improvement
- Epidural bag and bolus syringes can be wasted correctly

Survey for Anesthesia Providers (N=10)

Q1. In the past I have forgotten to waste the epidural bolus syringe

Q2. In the past I have found it difficult to waste the epidural syringe

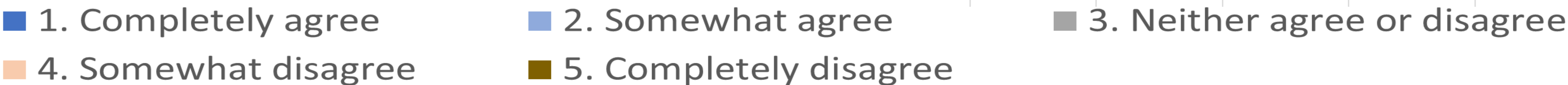
Q3. Since switching I find it easier to find the syringe for the patient.

Q4. Since switching I find I use the epidural syringe for the wrong patient.

Q5. Since the switch I find it easier to waste the epidural bolus syringe

Q6. Does this practice change help enhance patient safety?

Q7. Does this practice change help opioid management?



Conclusion

A novel use of a free space in the commonly used epidural PCA box enhanced patient safety, work efficiency, and improved opioid management.