POE Allergy Label Design

The Problem

The nursing staff hand writes a patient's allergies on each Medication Administration Record (MAR) sheet when posting initial orders in Electronic Physician Order Entry (POE) or when doing new MAR sheets for Medication Reconciliation. This is very time intensive especially if a patient has multiple allergies.

Aim/Goal

- Eliminate a non-value added nursing activity: time spent hand-writing allergies on multiple MAR sheets.
- Improve legibility of allergies
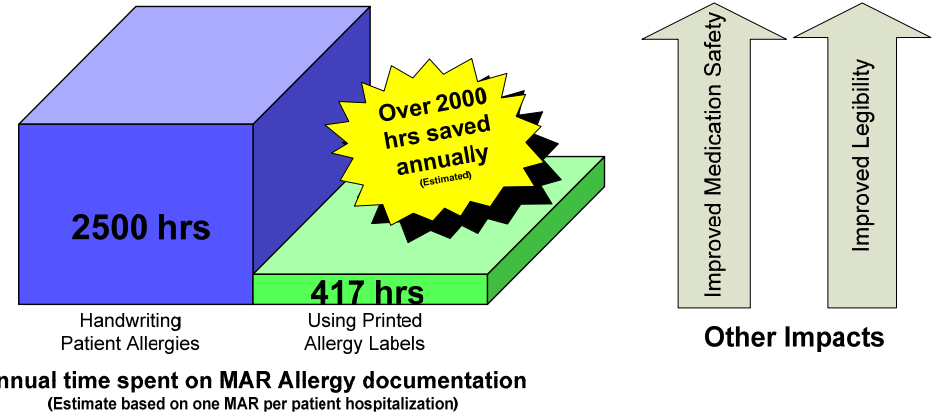- Improve patient safety in communicating appropriate information
- Streamline work

The Team

- Lindsay Peterson (idea generator-CC7)
- Kim Sulmonte (Director PCS Operations, Quality/Safety)
- Robin McLaughlin (Unit Educator CC7)
- Simone Rinaldi (CNS)
- Suzanne Burger (Unit Educator CC7)
- Kevin Afonso (Programmer)

The Interventions

- Worked with IS to problem solve and discover possible options with auto printing what is stored in the pt's electronic medical record
- Standardized POE label format (bolding "Allergies")
- Used Test system to ensure multiple allergies would fit on label
- Nursing education plan was developed and implemented through the Shared Governance Councils
- Modified re-design to further improve
- Trained staff on available POE enhancement and process change.

The Results/Progress to Date…

Over 2000 hrs saved annually (Estimated)

2500 hrs — Handwriting Patient Allergies

417 hrs — Using Printed Allergy Labels

Improved Medication Safety — Improved Legibility

Other Impacts

Annual time spent on MAR Allergy documentation
(Estimate based on one MAR per patient hospitalization)

Lessons Learned

1. Programming changes made after staff favorable feedback
2. Labels ensure that transcription errors do not occur
3. Improve ease of use, post feedback
4. IS not a million miles away-very helpful

Next Steps

1. Labels do not fit current MAR sheets
2. Re-design Medication Administration Record (MAR), to properly fit new allergy labels (new MAR sheets currently in use)

For More Information Contact
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