



Implementing an 'Alert of the Month' across Interventional Procedural/Non-OR Units to Improve Patient Safety

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Introduction/Problem

The RL6 Safety Reporting System collects adverse events reported by staff, including events in interventional procedure areas. An idea for an 'Alert of the Month' for interventional procedural/non-OR areas was created to help the units spot any recurring incidents that may be appearing in their area as well as remind departments of current protocols and procedures.

The team plans to distribute electronic alerts of select incidents to the directors/managers of each unit for educational purposes. By administering these electronic alerts, it will help to inform clinicians in procedural departments and hopefully improve quality of safety practices throughout all units.

Aim/Goal

By implementing a monthly alerting system of common adverse events that occurred in a procedural/non-OR unit, it will help to increase alertness in different departmental units, help to improve reporting of any unfavorable events, and help to refresh clinicians of safety protocols/procedures put in place. This project was funded by the CRICO Ambulatory Safety Grant-Centralized Oversight of Interventional Procedure Safety and discussed with the Interventional Procedures Committee

The Team

- Sheila Ryan Barnett M.D.-Anesthesia
- Sugantha Sundar M.D.-Anesthesia (Committee Chair) and Interventional Procedures Committee
- Julia Sheehan-Health Care Quality
- Catherine Annas J.D.-Health Care Quality

Alert of the Month – Example

LOOK-ALIKE, SOUND-ALIKE (LASA)				
LASA medications are defined as medications with similar appearing names and/or packaging, or medications with similar sounding names. These medications have the potential for causing errors from inadvertent interchange of these medications.				
				Risk Reduction Strategies
				1.Barcode Scanning 2. Stock segregation 3.Tallman lettering 4. Order sets or alerts
Amphotericin B deoxycholate Amphotericin B liposomal (AmBisome)	ColMDine ClonasePAM	Humalog Mix 75/25 Humulin 70/30	Metoprolol Tartrate (Lopressor) Metoprolol Succinate (Toprol XL)	RITUXImab OBINtuzumab OFatumumab ALEMtuzumab
amloridine amlodipine	CycloPHOSPHAMIDE 25mg tab CycloSPORINE modified (Neoral) 25mg cap CycloSPORINE (Sandimmune) 25mg cap	Humulin Humulin R U-500 Novolin	Morphine Solution 2 mg/mL Concentrated Morphine solution 20 mg/mL	Sodium Chloride 0.45% Flush 3mL Sodium CITRATE 4% Flush 3mL
Atipirizate Onepirizate	ONE DASitab Isatrab	HydroXYZine HydRALAZINE	NICARdipine NIFEdipine NIMODipine	Solu-CORTEF (hydrocortisone sodium succinate) Solu-MEDROL (methylprednisolone sodium succinate)
azacitidine Azacitidine	Depakote ER (extended release) Depakote (delayed release)	HYDROcodone oxyCODONE	OLANzapine intravitreal (Zymar) OLANzapine ER (L) (Zyprexa Retard)	Depo-Medrol (methylprednisolone acetate)
BuPROPion XL (daily) BuPROPion SR (twice daily)	Dopo-Pravera (medroxyprogesterone acetate) Depo-Medrol (methylprednisolone acetate)	HYDROmorphone Morphine	OxyCODONE 5mg OxyCODONE SR (OxyCONTIN) 10mg	SulfADIAZINE SulfASALAZINE SulfADIAZOLE
BRUvaccarin LEVICTracetam	DimerhyDRINATE DiphemylhydRAMINE	INFLIXImab RITUXImab	PAOltaxel (Taxol) DOCEtaxel (Taxotere)	Tacrolimus 0.5 mg Tacrolimus 5 mg
buPROPion buPROPion	DiphemylhydRAMINE	LACOsamide LOPERamide	PENtobarbital PHENobarbital	Td (tetanus, diphtheria) Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, primary vaccination series)
CaSAMAsipine OltacAsipine	DOXOrubicin DAUNOrubicin IDOrubicin	LansUDINE LansUDINE	Pneumococcal 15-valent conjugate vaccine (Prevnar 15) Pneumococcal 7-valent conjugate vaccine (PCV7) Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax 23)	TOLAZamide TOLBUTamide
Carbitopos-Levoflopa ODT Carbitopos-Levoflopa IR Carbitopos-Levoflopa CR	Demoxycyline 100mg DICYCLOMine 100mg	Lanthanum carbonate Lithium carbonate	PEMBROcicicab PALInicicab PAINtuzumab	TrasIMUlar TrasIMUlar TrasIMUlar Ado-trastuzumab emtansine
CARDOpatin Cipstatin	DULoxetine FLUoxetine PARoxetine	Liposomal DOXOrubicin (Doxil) Liposomal DAUNOrubicin (DaunoXone)	PrednicONE PrednicONE	ValACiclovir (VANTREX) ValACiclovir (ValCYTE)
CaFADolin CaFTRAlazine	GlipZIDE GlyBURIDE GlicAZONE	Lymphocyte immune globulin (AT0AM) Jantl Thyrocyte (Jantel)(Thyroglobulin) (AT5)	QuINidine QuINidine	Verifastine IR (immediate release) Verifastine ER (extended release)
CasBEX CasBEX CasBEX CasBEX	Heparin (25,000 units/250mL) Heparin	MetFORMIN MetrolINDAZOLE	RETROvir RITONAvir	Verifastine (tablet) Verifastine (Duovent)
ChloridacPOKIDE ChloropHAZINE ChloropHAMIDE	Humalog Novolin	Methazone Methazone	Rifampin Rifampin	

The Interventions

- Observed and collected adverse events in the RL6 Safety Reporting System in procedural/non-OR units
- Noticed severity level trends in certain adverse event types in different procedural/non-OR units
- Developed an 'Alert of the Month' handout for procedural/non-OR areas to discuss adverse events that could potentially occur in their unit
- Presented and discussed at both the CRICO IP Safety Project Meeting and Interventional Procedures Committee

Image above depicts list of look-alike and sound-alike medications that are used in the pharmacy and procedural units to differentiate between similar medications.
Appendix List for Policy #:03-07-05 Look-Alike Sound –Alike Error Prevention (Pharmacy Department).

For more information, contact:

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Results/Progress to Date



Image above shows example of format type for 'Alert of Month' to be sent to different procedural/non-OR departments. This example alert discussed lookalike and sound-alike medications from the Omnicell and Pharmacy. Included is a picture of what a typical Omnicell looks like.

Error Reduction Strategies for Look-alike and Sound-alike Medications

1. Prescribing dose limits
2. Standardized drug concentrations
3. Stock segregation
4. Bar-coding and scanning
5. Tall-man lettering

List above states five error reducing strategies when dealing with look-alike/sound-alike medications from Pharmacy. Policy #:03-07-05 Look-Alike Sound –Alike Error Prevention (Pharmacy Department).

Lessons Learned

- Underreporting of adverse events in procedural/non-OR areas
- Clinicians not compliant with protocols of RL6 reporting/do not understand what RL6 is
- Comprehensive safety of adverse event siloed in procedural/non-OR departments makes it harder to track for reporting purposes

Next Steps

- Continue to monitor adverse events reported into RL6 Safety System and update procedural departments of any common trends that occur
- Email 'Alert of Month' to directors of procedural/non-OR units to administer within department
- Monthly emails will be sent out to procedural/non-OR area staff members to keep them informed of incidents occurring in similar units
- Further educate clinical staff in other common adverse event types and help reinforce standard protocols put in place for safety measures
- Discussion for potential rewards or quizzes to help refresh clinicians of procedures/protocols put in place for procedural/non-OR areas
- Potentially spreading idea of 'Alert of Month' to non-procedural areas with similar interconnection as procedural/non OR units for patient safety and compliance

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