6S Project on 2 East

Betsy Charron RN, BSN



Introduction/Problem

Utilizing the departments Idea board, staff generated several ideas pertaining the need for organization and standardization of the unit's medication rooms.

RNs as well as materials management staff expressed frustration with the amount of time spent looking for supplies. Supplies could be kept in any of the three med rooms and in a different location in each. Supplies were overstocked making it difficult and time consuming to find items, tying up capital as well as increasing the likelihood of the supply expiring.

A Workgroup was tasked with eliminating the waste of searching & overstock in the 2 East Medication, Supply and Clean Equipment Rooms in order to give more time back to meaningful work; i.e., direct patient care.

Aim/Goal

- Increase ease of work for Nursing & Materials
 Management
- Organize supplies
- Dedicated space for every item
- Prevent expired supplies

- Removal of obsolete supplies
- Reduce the amount of capital tied up in overstocked supplies
- Item layout consistent throughout all rooms

The Team

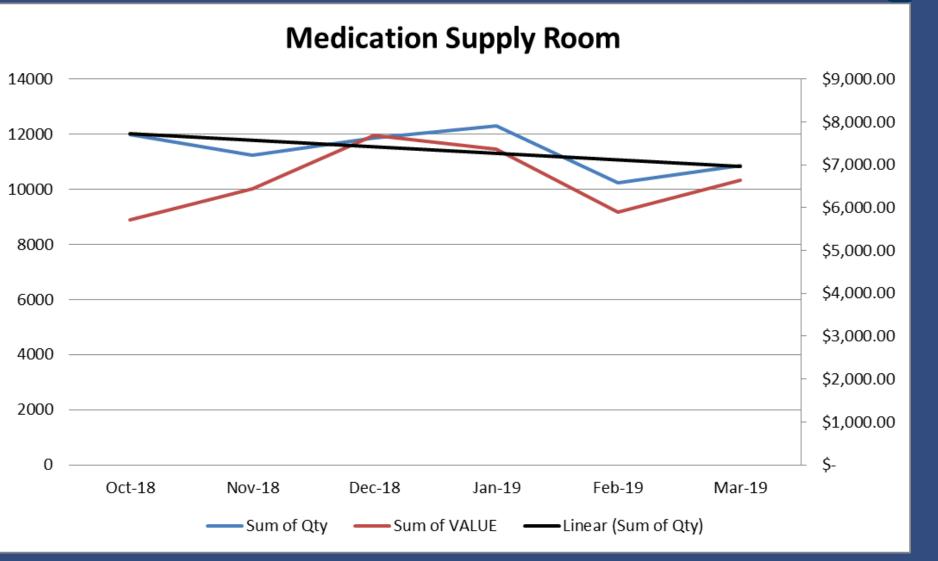
- Betsy Charron, RN, BSN
- Cori Perri, RN
- Catherine Papadopolous, RN
- Denille Carr, RN
- Dianne Erickson

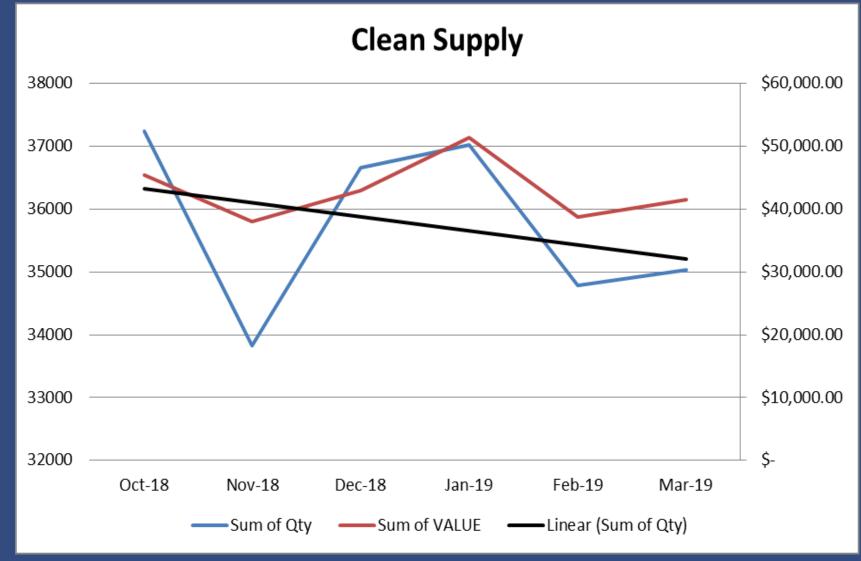
- Nikki Caputo, RN
- ➤ Lilly Elwell, UC CNA
- Deb Crowley, UC CNA
- Bobby Bowser

The Interventions

- Utilizing Lean Principals including 6S Methodology
- 1. Sort
- 2. Set
- 3. Scrub
- 4. Safety
- 5. Standardize
- 6. Sustain

Results/Progress to Date





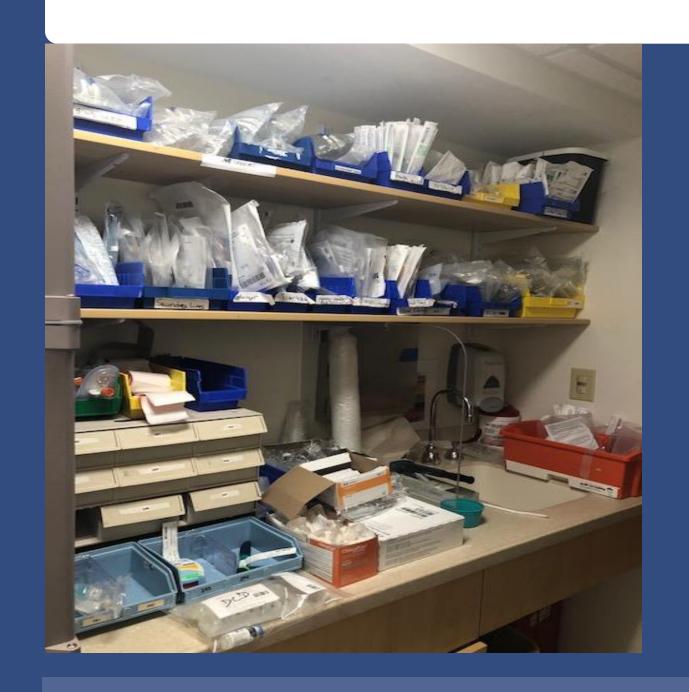
The above graph details the downward trend of inventory distributed & money spent.

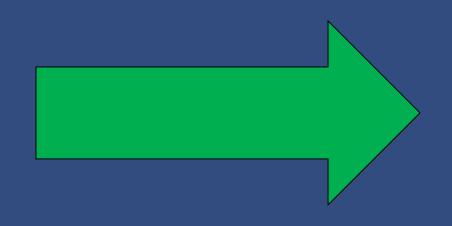


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More Results/Progress to Date





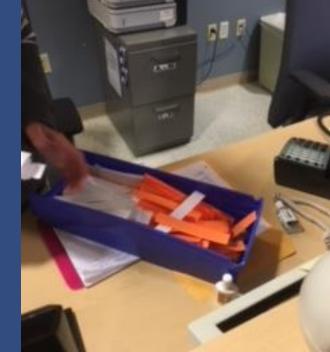






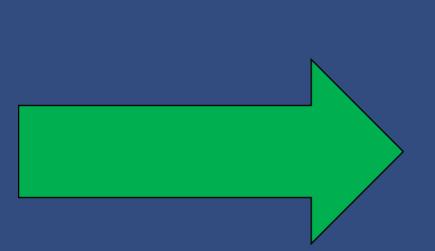






Before and after photos of the pilot medication supply room.







The above photos picture the overstock waste that was removed from the unit's medication and supply rooms.

Lessons Learned

- Include all stakeholders from the beginning
- Encourage feedback from all users throughout implementation
- Subcutaneous needle used appropriately
- Importance of daily monitoring for sustainment and success

Next Steps

- Continue to spread to all med rooms house wide
- Expand efforts to inpatient medical supply rooms
- Right size color coordinated bins
- Cluster closets
- > Identify a standard storage space for each piece of equipment

For more information, contact:

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