High Risk Medicines (HRMs) are medicines with an increased risk of significant harm to the patient if they are misused. Regarding the storage of HRMs, our hospital guidelines are based on the reference system of our accreditation organization, Accreditation Canada International (ACI). Compliance with ACI guidelines is essential to ensure the quality of care. ACI guidelines recommend a safe and continuous management of HRMs.

To determine the rate of adverse drug events related to HRMs in our hospital, we conducted a pharmaceutical audit. In this study, we focused on the following items: storage, quantity, labelling and expiry date of each HRM stored in care units. The impact of the pharmaceutical interventions performed during these quality audits was evaluated, which allowed to demonstrate a statistically significant improvement (p < 0.05) in terms of storage and expiry of HRMs.

Our consumption analysis indicated that the introduction of low concentrated KCl solutions in care units was not followed by the expected decrease in the prescriptions of injectable KCl concentrated solutions. This work highlights the importance of the pharmacy team in the continuous quality improvement process to optimise the management of High Risk Medicines in a hospital.

Periodic assessments of HRMs within the care units and in the centralized pharmacy are planned and performed to enhance the quality and safety deployment in collaboration with the care teams. It underlines the key role of the hospital pharmacist as major contributor to the quality and safety of patient care.

This section presents an overview of the LEAN Methodology used to draft our action plan to improve HRMs practices.

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