Simulation learning program for nurses: a way to secure the pillbox preparation in care units

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Why was it done?
- Audit of medication storage cabinets in 7 care units
- More than 5000 inappropriate medicines
- Likely to alter the process of pillbox preparation by nurses

What was done?
- Mobile cabinets were set up
  - Laptop with a mock prescription
  - Hydroalcoholic solution
  - Medical and ordinary waste bins
  - Empty packets + scissors
  - Blank labels and labels with the patient’s name
  - 28 drugs
    - with expired tablets, damaged blister packs, mixed pharmaceutical forms and dosages, non-identified drugs...
  - Patient pillbox for 24 hours

How was it done?
- An idea was developed into a project
  - Briefing
    - Workshop and patient presentation
  - Pillbox preparation
    - One-day treatment of a mock patient
  - Questions about good practices (6)
    - Pharmaceutical forms, nasogastric tube, cold chain, multi-dose vials...
  - Debriefing
    - About successes and pitfalls as an education purpose, without judgment
  - Satisfaction survey
    - Likert scale with 13 items
  - Validated assessment grid
    - 38 items
    - 89 points

What has been achieved?
- 47 nurses experienced the simulation-based workshop

What next?
- Corrective actions were implemented
  - Drug formulary update
  - Waste sorting rules reminder
  - Patient identifying rules reminder
  - List of crushable drugs for nasogastric tube administration
  - Summary sheet in care units

In 19 care units

Nurse rates observing items

- Not deblistering any unit dose: 89%
- Checking tablets expiry: 70%
- Taking patient drug allergies into account: 62%
- Throwing away medicines in the right bin: 21%
- Detecting acetaminophen prescription duplicate: 20%
- Preparing in accordance with the 5 R*: 20%
- Being able to give drugs through a nasogastric tube: 16%

*5R : the right medicine, the right dose, the right route for the right patient at the right time

Satisfaction: 100% of the nurses

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Hydroalcoholic solution
Medical and ordinary waste bins
Empty packets + scissors
Blank labels and labels with the patient’s name
2 mobile cabinets

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Drug formulary update
Waste sorting rules reminder
Patient identifying rules reminder
List of crushable drugs for nasogastric tube administration
Summary sheet in care units

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