Breaking barriers: medication safety in transitions of care

What was done?

During 2015 we have started to use direct messaging between the hospital pharmacist and the primary care physicians. The electronic messaging module allows you to send messages to all physicians caring for a patient, and it also allows you to contact the pharmacy where the patient usually goes to collect his medication. Physicians receive messages in their personal mailbox and the information also appears automatically in the patient’s electronic clinical course.

Why was it done?

- To improve patient safety.
- As a part of a multicentric medication reconciliation study on the fragile patient.

How was it done?

Hospital discharge + Hospital pharmacist’s medication reconciliation ➔ New medication list ➔ Safety alerts ➔ Electronic messaging to next health provider

What was achieved?

- 205 medical reconciliations at hospital discharge
- 143 messages sent
- 0.7 pharmaceutical interventions (PI)/patient
  - Accepted PI: 72.7% (n=104).
  - Rejected PI: 27.3% (n=39).

What is next?

- We are breaking barriers of uncommunication between hospital and primary care with the nexus of the Hospital pharmacist, who now is a part of the medical team.
- We want to determine if our pharmaceutical intervention improves health outcomes in patients.
- Another current problem in transitions of care is the hyperprescription of proton pump inhibitors and benzodiazepines.
- Deprescription program could be the next step.