

A Novel Education Programme to Improve Confidence and Knowledge Levels Regarding Medications in an Inpatient Population.

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Background:

HIQA report Feb 2018 (1):

•One in five patients has an adverse event after discharge from hospital, with the majority of these relating to medicines.

HIQA report on Medication safety Sept 2017 (2):

•58% reported the purpose of a new medication was explained in a way that they could understand.

Aims:

•To increase confidence and knowledge with regards regular medications.

To assess patient confidence levels regarding current medications.

- •To assess patient knowledge with regards to purpose and frequency of medications.
- •To identify sources of information used by patients with regards medications.

Identified patients admitted under general medicine in 7 week period (24).

Meds listed in Kardex checked with MedRec and admission note.

Pre questionnaire completed (20).

Meds transcribed onto Patient Meds List.

Meds list provided and explained.

Post questionnaire completed (20).

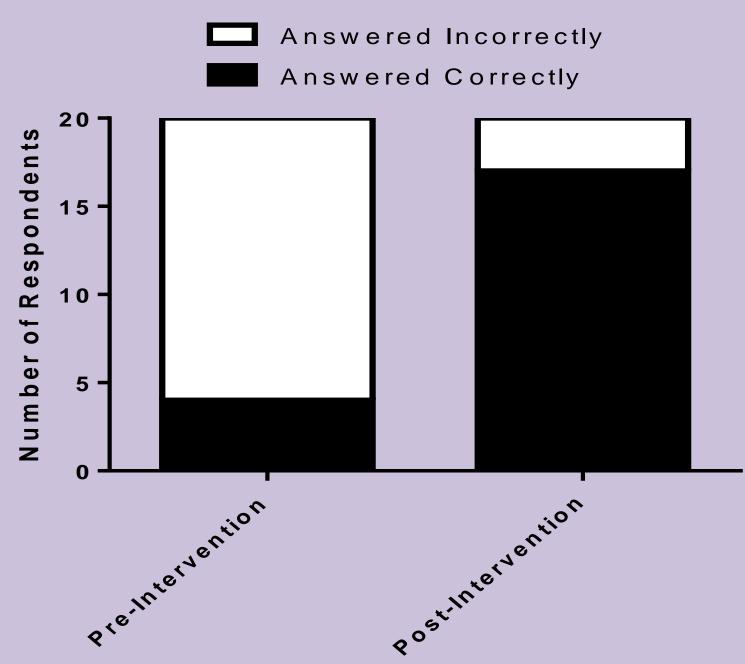
Results:

- 65% increase in knowledge of number of medications.
- 45% increase in knowledge of purpose of medications.
- 70% increase in knowledge of sources of information.

Discussion:

- Frequency vs Purpose (knew when but not why).
- Insulin and inhalers were most common to be missed.
- Majority reported referring to leaflets for information.
- Greater impact when family / carers present.

Response to Question Regarding Number of Regular Medications



Conclusions:

- Insight into patient's confidence and knowledge
- •This project highlighted the potential benefit of engaging and empowering patients with regards their own medications.
- •Potential impact on workload in both inpatient (readmissions) and community setting (GP).

References:

- 1. Medication safety monitoring programme in public acute hospitals. HIQA report Feb 2018.
- 2. Report of the announced inspection of medication safety Mercy University Hospital. Sept 2017.