

Delegation of medication dispensing from nurses to pharmaconomists in

the Respiratory Medicine Ward

OUH
Odense
University Hospital
Svendborg Hospital

Region of
Southern Denmark

patient first OUH



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Background

The Respiratory Medicine Ward (RMW) at Odense University Hospital (OUH) wished to delegate the medication dispensing process to the pharmaconomists to free the nurses' time for other tasks. Also, the pharmaconomists have observed some discrepancies in the dispensing process performed by the nurses.



Aim

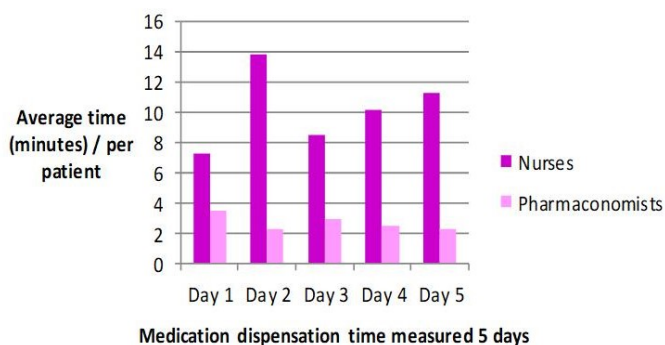
We aimed to investigate how the delegation of the medication dispensing process has helped the nurses in their workday, and to compare the time used on medication dispensing by pharmaconomists and nurses, respectively.

Method

The study took place at RMW from November 2018 to May 2019. We carried out:

- Time registration of medication dispensing performed by nurses and pharmaconomists.
- Interviews with four nurses on the subject.

Figure 1



Results

Figure 1 illustrates the time (minutes per patient per day) used by nurses and the pharmacist on medication dispensation.

Conclusion

The dispensing time is considerably reduced when the pharmaconomists dispense the medication. The delegation of the medication dispensing process to pharmaconomists gives the nurses more time to do other tasks.

Quotes from interviewed nurses

- "I don't have to look for the medicine"
- "It's faster because it's dispensed"
- "I don't find myself short of medicine, as I did before"
- "I've gained much more time"
- "I trust that you do your work properly"

Perspective

Several nurses mentioned that the delegation of the medicine dispensation has made the nurses aware of the fact that they used to reflect on issues like interactions, possible side effects etc. when they dispensed the medication.

Now that they no longer dispense themselves, they worried about whether the newer nurses, in particular, practice that reflection in their nursing care, instead of just counting the tablets.

It could be beneficial to consider whether the hospital pharmacy could help them incorporate that reflection in another part of their workflow, so that it is not lost.

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