MEDICATION SCANNING IN THE PACU. YOU CAN DO IT!

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Background: Over 39% of all medication errors occur during the administration phase. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) estimates that, on average, a hospitalized patient is subject to one medication administration error per day. Positive Patient Identification (PPID)/Medication Barcode Scanning leverages technology to support enabling the five rights of safe medication administration (right drug; right dose; right route; right patient; right time) by scanning the patient wristband to identify all patients, and scanning all medications that have been identified to be in scope, prior to administration. Documentation is improved with the use of this process as medications are charted in the electronic medical record as part of the scanning process.

Implementation: In 2008, Baystate Medical Center implemented PPID for all inpatient areas, including the PACU. A few of the major problems upon initiation of scanning were identified by staff such as RN buy in and frustration with the process, work flow, and medications that did not scan. Our scanning rate in the beginning was a dismal 13 % for medications and 40% for patient identification. There was little improvement over the first year for our department and the staff became very frustrated.

Outcome: When the Department of Health Care Quality made scanning a metric for unit performance, the issues in PACU were escalated. Work groups consisting of IS department, pharmacy and management were set up to discuss the issues with scanning medications and the process began for improvement. Once the RN's saw that their issues were being addressed, their compliance in scanning increased. After over a year of collaboration and persistence the scanning rates for the PACU have risen to 88 % for medication scanning and 97% for patient identification. The department has met the required metrics and is one of the leading units in scanning rates for the hospital.