

Joint Commission Standards and the Operating Room: Black Hole or Final Frontier?

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Peggy Bickham, PharmD, has nothing
to disclose.

Our Medical Center Joint
Commission Steering Committee
requested an assessment report
on operating room compliance
with Medication Management
standards.....

The Problems.....

- Meds left around the operating rooms after end of case
- Pre-labeling of syringes during case setup
- Anesthesia carts left unlocked after hours and between cases
- Refrigerated drugs left at room temperature

Assessing the Problems

- Part-time pharmacy student had been assigned to weekly OR room rounds
- Also checked Surgicenter, PACU, block rooms, and interventional radiology rooms
- Expanded her role: Developed audit form as a tool to document and quantify problems
- Collected examples – the “Cart of Infamy”

“Cart of Infamy”



Audit Form

OR and Procedure Area Medication Storage and Control Rounds

Date: _____ Name of auditor: _____

OR Room 1

Unsecured (unlocked) medications (Baggie)	Prelabeled syringes (Baggie)
Stashes: Meds in unapproved storage area (Baggie)	Expired medication(s) (Baggie)
Unlocked case box left in room	Unlocked anesthesia cart
Controlled drugs found unlocked	Food found in room
Unsealed Anesthesia tray pulled from room	Emergency tray exchanged
Anesthesia labels restocked (name):	Refrigerated meds left at room temp (Baggie)
Comments:	

OR Room 2

Unsecured (unlocked) medications (Baggie)	Prelabeled syringes (Baggie)
Stashes: Meds in unapproved storage area (Baggie)	Expired medication(s) (Baggie)
Unlocked case box left in room	Unlocked anesthesia cart
Controlled drugs found unlocked	Food found in room
Unsealed Anesthesia tray pulled from room	Emergency tray exchanged
Anesthesia labels restocked (name):	Refrigerated meds left at room temp (Baggie)
Comments:	

Addressing the Problem

- Presented Med Management standards to nurses and anesthesiologists at morning conferences
- Presented “Cart of Infamy” as well
- Discussed patient safety implications
- Discussed supporting anesthesiology literature

Bierstein K. Anesthesia carts: new federal regulation aligns with ASA policy. ASA Newsletter. 2007; 71(2):32-34.

Buy-in By Anesthesia and Nursing!

- Requested assistance of anesthesiologists and nurses
- Invited discussion and identified barriers to compliance
- Obtained suggestions for improvement
- Jotted down all ideas and suggestions for further evaluation

Resulting Strategies

- Established working group with key OR nurses
 - *Addressed barriers to compliance
 - *Implemented ideas and improvements
- Assessed improvement in compliance using the audit tool
- Attended additional morning conferences to give feedback
- Communication (and lots of it!)

Outcomes

- Established an understanding of Joint Commission MM standards among the OR staff
- Obtained cooperation from nurses and anesthesiologists
- Transformed from a “pharmacy police” situation to a team effort
- Audits showing steady improvement

The Faces of Hope!

