

Automatic Dosing Interchange: Improving Medication Use Process for Levalbuterol

Tracey Okabe-Yamamura, Pharm.D.
Mercy San Juan Medical Center



Improving the medication use process for levalbuterol was addressed at two community facilities in the Sacramento, California area. Although levalbuterol has the advantage a longer half-life for less frequent dosing, practice had evolved where the drug was often doses at an every 4-hour or more frequent interval in the adult population resulting in over-utilization of the drug as well as an increase in missing doses by our respiratory care practitioners (RCPs). Therefore, in cooperation with our respiratory department, we developed an automatic dosing interchange for levalbuterol that allows both pharmacists and respiratory care practitioners to automatically change the dosing for the 0.63 and 1.25 mg doses of the drug.

The automatic dosing interchange has resulted in improved utilization of time for the respiratory care practitioners resulting in fewer missed doses. As patients were educated about the benefits of the longer acting levalbuterol, there was a resulting improvement in overall patient satisfaction. Additional benefits have included improved utilization of time for the respiratory care practitioners resulting in fewer missed doses, improved patient safety and satisfaction, and improved utilization of the medication.

This initiative addresses Goal #1 (Objective 3) of the ASHP 2015 Initiative.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOL

These "2015 Success Stories" highlight successes in implementing one of the ASHP [2015 Objectives](#). Tools and resources are also provided for each success story. For more information, email 2015@ashp.org or send your "Success Story" accompanied by a [permission form](#) (PDF).