

Medication Use Evaluation of Nesiritide at a Community Teaching Hospital

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A retrospective medication use evaluation (MUE) was performed at a 511-bed, community, teaching hospital in order to characterize use of nesiritide and to identify any potential areas for improvement. Two Cardiologists, a Critical Care Nurse Manager, a Pharmacy Clinical Manager, and a Pharmacy Practice Resident comprised the multidisciplinary team to design, conduct, and report back to the Cardiology Subcommittee and the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee regarding the project. The review period was April 2003 through November 2003, with 58 patients included in the analysis. Duration of nesiritide therapy and indication were identified as potential areas for improvement based on the MUE results.

Recommendations approved and implemented at the hospital were as follows:

- To update existing nesiritide guidelines (posted on the hospital intranet).
- To require Cardiologist review for all nesiritide orders and to restrict use to the indication of acutely decompensated heart failure.
- To change the computerized provider order entry (CPOE) screens for nesiritide to include guideline information and to require listing of indication, maximization of other therapy, and Cardiologist review on each order (via drop-down box or yes/no questions).
- To provide an automatic 24-hour stop on nesiritide orders to encourage re-evaluation of therapy daily (with allowance to re-order if indicated for continuation by Cardiologist).
- To provide educational inservices to nursing, physician, and pharmacy departments.

Additionally, since implementation of these changes, the pharmacy department has increased decentralized clinical pharmacist involvement during weekdays, through targeted medication review.

This initiative addresses Goal #3, objectives 1 & 2 of the ASHP 2015 Initiative.

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